The Colonist.

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THE BUDGET SPEECH AND ITS CRITICS.

The Provincial Treasurer's budget speech was a plain, clear and concise exposition of the financial condition of the Province. He did not, as some finance ministers find it convenient to do, hide his meaning under a cloud of words or bewilder his hearers with a formidable array of unnecessary figures. The hearer who was at all attentive and had any knowledge of the way in which the public accounts of the province are kept, could gain from what he said an accurate idea of the financial condition of the province; and the intelligent reader will peruse his speech with profit and will be certain to arrive at the conclusion that the Government has been careful in their expenditure of the public money and judiciously economical.

That impression will be deepened when he reads the criticisms on the budget speech by the Hon. Mr. Beaven and Mr. Grant. Anything weaker than the speeches of those two gentlemen can hardly be imagined. It is proverbially easy to find fault, but to judge by the labored but feeble speeches of the Leader of the Opposition and his lieutenant they must have found it the next thing to impossible to discover any weakness in the Government's administration of the provincial finances. Mr. Grant wasted a great deal of time in urging the Provincial Treasurer for not being a prophet. It seemed to be an unpardonable sin in his eyes not to foresee the number of persons who would purchase public lands. Ordinary people see but a very little way into the future, and persons that are at all prudent in their preparatorio; 1st to calculate upon benefitting by windfalls. If windfalls come they are very welcome, and there are generally some way in which the money can be profitably expended. But to calculate upon unusual receipts is unsafe and unwise. They may not come, and the expenditure that is made with the expectation of their coming in may prove a very embarrassing liability. We think, therefore, that very few people will blame the Hon. Mr. Turner for not having calculated upon a very large sum in last year's estimates for land receipts. The principal thing for them to consider is, did he make a good use of the money when he did get it? His critics do not even hint that the money thus unexpectedly received was wasted or misappropriated in any way. If the Government had been extravagant, if they had made an imprudent use of the land receipts, the opposition critics would have quickly discovered it, and, as would be their duty, have promptly taken the Government to task for having squandered the peoples' money. But they make no such charge. It is fair therefore to conclude that they, after the closest and most careful examination of the public accounts, have not been able to discover that the Government have been either careless or imprudent stewards. As to whether Mr. Turner was or was not mathematically accurate in his calculations last year as to the sum he was to receive or even as to the amount of his expenditure, the great bulk of the taxpayers will not give the matter a second thought. What they want are honest and careful administrators. They don't expect to get prophets as public servants. The Opposition critics virtually admit that in their management of the provincial revenue the present Government have been both honest and careful.

We are a little surprised that Mr. John Grant, M. P. P. for Cassiar, should have made any allusion to civic affairs in his speech. Such an allusion suggested comparisons not at all to the credit of Mr. John Grant, Mayor of the city of Victoria. Mr. John Grant, in the Legislative Assembly criticizing the budget speech, which he had to admit was a full and clear exposition of the finance of the province, posed as a prudent and far-seeing financier, who was bound to see that the Government gave an exact account for every cent they had received from the people. As the guardian of the people's money he was watchful and severe, condemning the Provincial Treasurer for not calculating beforehand, almost to the dollar, what he was to receive and what he was to spend. Mr. John Grant, as Mayor of Victoria, is the most jaunty and, we must add, the most reckless of administrators. He aids in spending the money of the citizens in the most profuse manner, and when questions are asked him in the name of the ratepayers respecting the disposition which he and the body over which he presides have made of the taxes they have received and the loans they have been entrusted with, he declines to answer or formally to acknowledge his and their responsibility. When asked to draw up a statement such as that which the Hon. Mr. Turner made on Tuesday, as a matter of course, his only reply is an irrelevent letter throwing the blame of mismanagement on to the shoulders of the councillors, and a frivolous remark about the way in which he directed the money received by the city to be placed in the bank. The mayor, who refused to give an account of the way in which he and the members of the council to which he belongs administered the finances of the city when grave charges of mismanagement were preferred against them is hardly the man in his capacity of member of the Legislative Assembly to call the Government of the Province to give a strict account as to what had been done with the money entrusted to them by the people. The contrast between the way in which he and the rest of the corporation acted when they were asked to explain what they did with the people's money and the course pursued by the Provincial Government is so glaring that we wonder that Mr. Grant had the effrontery to allude to the city council in his criticism on the budget speech. The Hon. Mr. Turner had done voluntary in the ordinary course of his duty what Mayor Grant and his Council had deliberately refused to do when their management of the city's finances was publicly called in question by persons who had a right to demand of them an account of their stewardship. Mr. Grant, the critic, was in every respect the direct opposite of Mr. Grant the administrator.

The Hon. Mr. Beaven should know by this time that vituperation is not criticism. Unqualified condemnation is often the last resort of conscious weakness. None are more ready violently to accuse those whom they dislike than men who are advanced many stages towards imbecility. Debaters who feel that they can prove what they advance are not prone to deal in superlatives. When Mr. Beaven said that "language could not express his contempt for a Government" conducted as the present Government is conducted, everyone knows that he was talking utter nonsense, and nonsense, too, that is palpable insincere. The leader of the Opposition shows every day that he does not regard the Government with a contempt that is inexpressible. In fact his actions show that he respects the Government so much that he feels all his attempts to discredit it are hopeless. He knows—no one better—that it is administering the affairs of the province wisely and to the satisfaction of its inhabitants. He sees that the accusations which he and others have preferred against it cannot be proved, that every attempt to injure it in the estimation of the people results in covering its accusers and villifiers with confusion. He himself had an opportunity of exposing what he regards as the misdeeds of the Government not long ago in this city, and the weakness of his charges and his failure to make them good, weak and even frivolous as they were, disappointed and disgusted even his own friends and admirers. For Mr. Beaven to pretend to despise a Government on which his best prepared attacks can make no impression is so transparently insincere that he cannot expect to be believed by either friends or foes. Take from his criticism of the budget speech its virulence, its acerbity, its false accusations, its unsupported statements and its irrelevent passages, and what is there left? Simply nothing that any sensible man would care to hear, or that would influence him in the slightest degree.

BISMARCK'S RESIGNATION.

The resignation of Bismarck was not altogether unexpected. He has had differences with the Emperor which have for some time been leading to the crisis marked by the Great Chancellor resigning the office he had held so long. The relations between the Emperor and his Prime Minister were delicate before the late election. His resignation was then every day expected. The breach was bridged once; but, as the event has shown, the structure was a temporary one, and the man who has been so long the virtual ruler of Germany and the dictator of Europe has at last returned to private life. What the result will be no one can even conjecture. "Prince Bismarck," the London Standard said on one of the last days in February, "has been too long a guiding and a steadying force in the politics of Europe to render it possible to regard any diminution of his authority, any sign of retreat from the commanding station he occupies, without a feeling of anxiety. . . . His service have been so conspicuous, his abilities are so transcendent, his hold upon the affections and respect of his fellow countrymen is so close, that it would not be astonishing if he declined to subordinate his judgment to that of a young Monarch who was a child while Austria was being humbled at Sadowa, and France crushed at Metz and Sedan."

What the Standard foresaw has come to pass. The man of blood and iron has refused to subordinate his opinion of what is best for Germany to the views of the young and inexperienced Emperor.

It may be easily understood that the young Emperor parted with the faithful servant of his grandfather and his father, the man who made Germany what it is, and who gave the sovereigns whom he served the greatness which they attained, with extreme reluctance. It is said that he more than once appealed to the Chancellor's patriotism in order to induce him to remain in office, and the appeal was successful. But the time came when Bismarck saw that his duty to his country required him to resign his office, and he obeyed the call of what he considered duty. It appears that the cause of the disagreement between the Emperor and the Chancellor is the policy which the Emperor seems determined to pursue with respect to socialism. It can easily be understood that Bismarck would strenuously oppose a policy of conciliation. He would regard it as a weakness almost criminal even to listen to the demands of those whom he regards as the enemies of society. The convening of the International Labor Congress cannot have met with the approval of Bismarck. He would, according to his lights, treat the workmen well, but they must accept what it pleases him voluntarily to give. He would never yield anything to their demands.

It is whispered that the course which the Emperor has entered upon was suggested by his wife, who, it is said, takes her stand on purely Christian grounds. This is a singular change of counsellors. To prefer the advice of a woman who, as far as the world knows, is remarkable for nothing in particular, to that of the greatest statesman of the age—a man who has built up an empire, and who for nearly half a century has influenced the policy of every nation in Europe, is a most extraordinary choice. Will its wisdom be vindicated by the result? Who knows?

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

The state of the labor market in England may be inferred from the following statistics taken from the Board of Trade Journal:

"In November last there were no fewer than 22 strikes, in December the number had fallen to 57, but last month it rose to 85. Some of these disputes were of considerable importance, and affected a large number of workers. Notwithstanding their occurrence, however, the number of unemployed was reduced during January by 980 men. The proportion of unemployed per cent. in this month was 1·44, for December it was 1·75, while for the corresponding month of last year it was 3·1, and in February of 1886 it was 7·8. In the shipbuilding trade not one in each hundred of the men is out of work at present, the current proportion being about 9 per 1000. Almost equally prosperous are all the branches of the engineering trade, which has not been so well employed since 1873. Despite the earliness of the season, the building trades are showing signs of improvement. In the steel, iron, and coal industries work is plentiful. The textile trades are moderately employed, but are stationary. The printing and book trades are also fairly busy." In the textile trades alone about 900,000 operatives were employed in 1885. The average weekly wages earned in that year by men in the cotton industries amounted to 25s 3d, in the woollen industries the sum was 23s 2d, in the worsted industries 23s 4d, and in the linen industries 19s 9d. In explanation of the lower wages received in the linen trade, it is remarked that "linen is largely a Scottish and Irish industry, and even in England it is carried on largely in country districts, and not so much in large manufacturing centres as the other industries with which it is here compared. The earnings are accordingly less on the average than in the other leading textile trades, which are carried on more largely in large towns or in the central localities of Lancashire and Yorkshire."

INTERIOR NEWS.

(From the Inland Sentinel.)

Stock in the Spallumcheen valley are reported in good condition.

Mrs. Craig, relict of the late John Craig, of Ashcroft, died at the residence of Mrs. Nelson on Wednesday. She came to town for treatment after having been ill for over a month with grippe, but was beyond medical aid.

Another pioneer has crossed the great divide, in the person of Vincent Petit, a native of Pickard, France, who came to the province during the excitement of '58. He died on the 5th inst. at Lower Nicola, which place he has made his home for some years past. The deceased was 80 years of age.

Evan Evans, N. P., from Lillooet, paid a visit to Kamloops this week, and expressed himself as well pleased with the thriving appearance of the town. He reports a severe winter in the Cariboo country, on the Bonaparte and Clinton valleys, with a heavy fall of snow. No serious loss of stock is anticipated, however, as there was plenty of feed in the country and the ranges will afford plenty of provender when the snow leaves.

CACHE CREEK.

The weather during the last few days has turned quite warm, and has every appearance of spring.

The ice on the Bonaparte has nearly all disappeared.

Stockmen around here have not suffered much from loss of stock this winter. Several have turned their cattle out on the hills, and farmers talk of commencing plowing before long.

ASHCROFT.

Mr. Alexander Cameron and a party of four men left here Monday for Cayoosh Creek, Lillooet, to open up another hydraulic claim in that creek. This makes the fifth company that will be operating in the neighborhood of Lillooet this summer.

The cattlemen on the Bonaparte are now jubilant that the winter is over. All the cattle have been turned out and so far without any loss.

News has been received here that the location of the proposed railway from here to Cariboo will commence in two weeks more. Engineers for that purpose are expected from the east.

KOOTENAY LAKE.

It is reported that the Nelson City Company are sending in a sawmill to be delivered at Kootenay Station on March 16th. It will be erected at their townsite. R. W. Yuill has got out 100 saw-logs so far, which will be taken to it.

The last seven days of February have been the coldest of the season, reported 22 below at Nelson. New ice froze six inches thick at Buchanan's sawmill, and he put up fifty tons of it.

A band of Indians from the Kootenay river came down to the outlet about two weeks since. Taking advantage of the deep snow they have slaughtered about 30 deer. A herd of 15 was driven out on the ice near the saw mill. The Indians were in hot pursuit and killed eight of them.

The winter is reported to be very hard upon stock up the river. A Mr. Eckart brought in a drove of 500 head from the bunch grass country late in the fall. He located about twenty miles above the boundary on the river. He put up an abundance of hay, but it was out after the frost and about 400 of the cattle are said to be dead already.

Labor Items.

Sudden accidents often befall artizans, farmers and all who work in the open air, besides the exposure to cold and damp, producing rheumatism, lame back, stiff joints, lameness, etc. Yellow Oil is a ready remedy for all such troubles. It is handy and reliable, and can be used internally or externally. swf

All in a Heap.

Malarial fever left me with my blood in a terrible state, with boils breaking out on my head and face. I was too weak to work or even walk, but after taking a quarter of a bottle of Burdock Blood Bitters I was able to work. The boils all went away in a heap, as it were, and my strength fully returned before the bottle was done.

swf FRED. W. HAYNES, Windsor, Ont.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Continued from Third Page.

the opposition benches. Referring to the leader of the opposition, a man whose politics were nil, could find no more dignified subject than an anonymous slanderer (such as he had questioned the leader of the government about a few days ago) would scarcely be deemed worthy to be the leader of a government. He did not see much in the remarks of the last speaker worthy of answer, but his reference to his (Mr. Davie's) speech a short time since on the proposal to allow the Municipal Council to injuriously affect private property without making compensation required correction. He (Mr. Davie) on the occasion alluded to had denounced the proposed measure in strong terms, but he had referred only to the official conduct of those who had proposed so dishonest a scheme, not in any way their private characters. Never, either outside of the House nor in, had he been guilty of attacking private character—that he would leave to members of the opposition, particularly the member for Cassiar, who could not discern between a scathing rebuke of public conduct and a slanderous attack on private character. He hoped that he might learn the difference in future. The private characters of the member for Cassiar and those he defended were not placed higher by those characters being defended before they were attacked. Proceeding to the consideration of the legislative blundess ascribed to him (Mr. Davie), he did not profess the high standard of perfection assumed by hon. members opposite. He did not profess to be say better but claimed that he was no worse than anyone else. Those who lived in glass houses should not throw stones, and the authors of the law which exposed every mayor and alderman to a fine of $2,500 for voting in the city council should not allude to the fancied blunders of other people. As to the failure of the finance minister to bring down the return of the taxes remitted to the C. P. R. within fifteen days, as the opposition had no condemnation to offer against the action of the government in remitting the portion of taxes alluded to, he thought it would have been much better for the member for Cassiar to have said nothing about the mere question of its being brought up whether it was within fifteen or twenty-five days. He thought the opposition should try and be more dignified.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said that on the opening of the session the House had been assured that there had been healthy growth in all the industries of the province. He had ventured to criticize this statement at the time, and said that when the returns of revenue and expenditure were brought down it would be found that the increased revenue was mainly attributable to land sales. The estimates were now before the House, and this was shown to be exactly the case. The receipts from land sales constituted nearly the whole $100,000. He had also stated on the opening of the session that the increase of actual ordinary revenue would be found to arise from the errors of the finance minister in preparing the estimates. He had taken this view from the record of that hon. gentleman in the past, which led him to expect similar errors again. The discrepancies were of alarming proportions, and showed that no reliance could be placed on any statement or figures placed before the House by the finance minister. The revenue of this province was so small that it could be easily analyzed, and could certainly be accurately dealt with by any business man of ordinary capacity. It was impossible for the finance minister to figure correctly, and he was $105,000 "out" in his estimates for 1889; he had underestimated the revenue and receipts, overestimated certain other receipts, and subsequently received still other amounts which he had made no provision for at all. It was typical of an alarming state of things when the head of a department made such gross errors. The country might as well have no government. The departments practically ran themselves. Take the lands and works department, for example—it was simply an engine for the purpose of corrupting electors with their own money. In this department the contract system required by statute was almost completely ignored, and day work, which was unauthorized by statute, was resorted to only when the contract system was impracticable, was the rule rather than the exception. Right in Victoria District the working of the day-work system was well illustrated. There was an election and the road boss was found to be the most active worker for the government. If the men don't support the government they get no work from him. This was the grossest kind of bribery.

Hon. Mr. Davie—How did you build the dock?

Hon. Mr. Robson—They didn't build it.

Hon. Mr. Beaven, continuing, said that the dock was built mainly by contract work. When the contractors failed fresh plans had, of course, to be prepared, and during the preparation of these plans day work was resorted to. There the government secured cheap power and for seven months carried on the work by day labor. There was an example of consistency. The present system adopted by the Lands and Works Department was prejudicial to the best interests of the country, as it prevented the settler from securing his rights and benefitted speculators solely. Under the system of selling of unsurveyed land now in vogue anyone could pick out the best of the public domain, have it surveyed and then shut it up from desirable settlement. Thousands of acres of land were annually purchased as pastoral land at $1 an acre, which had not one characteristic of pastoral land. The settler who came to British Columbia was at the mercy of speculators, and after trying vainly to secure a home here he almost invariably drifted across to Washington, where his rights were properly guarded and his interests protected. What the matter with the present government was, was that each member was too much engaged with his private interests. In was true the Provincial Secretary was generally to be found in his office; but it was because he had no office down town. He was the head of the education department, which was run merely as an implement of political power. It was only necessary to refer to the correspondence just printed for the perusal of the House to see that the education department was formed simply and solely to crush Independence and encourage sycophancy. One teacher had conscientiously said that he could not comply with a certain rule, and his certificate was promptly cancelled. Others had not been so conscientious and were raised to the highest pinnacle. To be a good government, a government should endeavor to make it hard to do wrong and easy to do right, not vice versa. Take the treasury department;—it had been shown that their estimates were entirely unreliable. Language could not express his contempt for a government so conducted. Every system in the treasury department was abused. There was absolutely no check on the special warrant system, or the collection of revenue. The department had no head, no direction. The hon. the attorney-general was continually and simply absorbed in a gigantic effort to retain his private practice at the bar. He was never to be found in the attorney-general's office, and when the House not long ago called for certain returns from that department a portion was forthcoming. The remainder was mixed up with his private affairs at his private office. Past attorney-generals had not done as the present incumbent of the office—sacrifice the public interest for the benefit of his private practice. The only legislation he had introduced this year, his Legal Professions Act, was simply a measure to keep legal men of better intellect than his own out of the country. British Columbia would be much better without any government at all than with the present one. The opposition had asserted that the past year's maladministration by the government would result in the reduction of the appropriation for public works. The estimate for this year under the head of salaries had been increased by $9,000, but there had been a reduction of $135,000 on public works. Referring to Hon Mr. Davie's remarks in reference to the conduct of Victoria's mayor and aldermen, he said that he thought it was the best recommendation that their character or ability could receive to be assailed as they had by the attorney-general. After reviewing what he termed the "picayune" remarks of the attorney-general, he closed his remarks for the time by saying that to attribute the first part of the prosperity of the country to the Government was the height of absurdity, they had no more to do with the prosperity of British Columbia than they had with the government of Russia. They were the only spokes in the wheel which retarded the country's prosperity. He would have more to say upon the estimates at another day.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robson, seconded by Hon. Mr. Vernon, the debate was adjourned until Wednesday.

TRANSMITTED BY MESSAGE.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented messages from the Lieut.-Governor, accompanying bills respecting the Columbia & Kootenay Railway land grant, and the Shuswap & Okanagan Railway bill. To be referred to committee of the whole on Wednesday.

The House rose at 5:30 p.m.

THIRTY-FIRST DAY.

WEDNESDAY, March 19th.

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

Prayers by Rev. Dr. Reid.

B. C. SOUTHERN.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented a return of correspondence, etc., connected with the B. C. Southern Railway.

PETITION.

Mr. Haslam laid before the House the petition of 1,200 coal miners of British Columbia, requesting that the employment of Chinese in the underground works be prohibited by law.

The petition of Eli Hallet and other voters of Victoria, to support references to the Chinese question was read and ordered printed.

MINING MACHINERY.

Hon. Mr. Robson moved the following resolution: "Whereas, much of the machinery required for the successful treatment of the refractory ores of this province is not at present manufactured in Canada; and whereas, the import duty of 30 per cent., when added to the cost of transporting such heavy machinery to the mines, is calculated to paralyze the chief mining industry of the country; be it therefore resolved, that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting His Honor to urge upon the Dominion government the importance and necessity of admitting free of duty all such mining machinery as is not now successfully manufactured in Canada."

The hon. premier said that he was quite aware that similar resolutions had been passed once or twice before by this House, but he considered that this was an opportune time to again present it. As British Columbia's representatives at Ottawa were just now making a strong push to have the duty removed. The resolution if passed unanimously might have the effect of turning the scale in favor of the province. A year or two ago the provincial government had had occasion to import a certain special piece of machinery from California for the Nanaimo works, which was never manufactured or attempted to be manufactured in Canada. The government applied to the Federal government for a remission of duty on this piece of machinery and the request was granted, but the order-in-council was passed granting the rebate. It had not been received, however, as the Minister of Customs still refused to admit that parts of the machinery could be imported duty free. Even if as good machinery could be manufactured in eastern Canada, the geographical position of British Columbia was such that it would be more advantageous to buy from California, which was a nearer neighbor. California was an old mining country, experienced and fully understanding the requirements of a mining district; it was no reflection on the Dominion or Dominion manufacturers to ask that the duty be removed until the necessary apparatus for quartz mining could be procured equally advantageously in the country. Hon. Mr. Robson was heartily astonished that the Dominion Government should meet quartz mining at the door, and catch it by the throat with the demand of 30 per cent. import duty.

Mr. Mason, in seconding the resolution, said that this was the third time that a resolution of this kind had been before the House; twice it had been introduced by the premier, and now it was the best interests of the country, as it prevented the settler from securing his rights and benefitted speculators solely. Under the system of selling of unsurveyed land now in vogue anyone could pick out the best of the public domain, have it surveyed and then shut it up from desirable settlement. Thousands of acres of land were annually purchased as pastoral land at $1 an acre, which had not one characteristic of pastoral land. The settler who came to British Columbia was at the mercy of speculators, and after trying vainly to secure a home here he almost invariably drifted across to Washington, where his rights were properly guarded and his interests protected. What the matter with the present government was, was that each member was too much engaged with his private interests. In was true the Provincial Secretary was generally to be found in his office; but it was because he had no office down town. He was the head of the education department, which was run merely as an implement of political power. It was only necessary to refer to the correspondence just printed for the perusal of the House to see that the education department was formed simply and solely to crush Independence and encourage sycophancy. One teacher had conscientiously said that he could not comply with a certain rule, and his certificate was promptly cancelled. Others had not been so conscientious and were raised to the highest pinnacle. To be a good government, a government should endeavor to make it hard to do wrong and easy to do right, not vice versa. Take the treasury department;—it had been shown that their estimates were entirely unreliable. Language could not express his contempt for a government so conducted. Every system in the treasury department was abused. There was absolutely no check on the special warrant system, or the collection of revenue. The department had no head, no direction. The hon. the attorney-general was continually and simply absorbed in a gigantic effort to retain his private practice at the bar. He was never to be found in the attorney-general's office, and when the House not long ago called for certain returns from that department a portion was forthcoming. The remainder was mixed up with his private affairs at his private office. Past attorney-generals had not done as the present incumbent of the office—sacrifice the public interest for the benefit of his private practice. The only legislation he had introduced this year, his Legal Professions Act, was simply a measure to keep legal men of better intellect than his own out of the country. British Columbia would be much better without any government at all than with the present one. The opposition had asserted that the past year's maladministration by the government would result in the reduction of the appropriation for public works. The estimate for this year under the head of salaries had been increased by $9,000, but there had been a reduction of $135,000 on public works. Referring to Hon Mr. Davie's remarks in reference to the conduct of Victoria's mayor and aldermen, he said that he thought it was the best recommendation that their character or ability could receive to be assailed as they had by the attorney-general. After reviewing what he termed the "picayune" remarks of the attorney-general, he closed his remarks for the time by saying that to attribute the first part of the prosperity of the country to the Government was the height of absurdity, they had no more to do with the prosperity of British Columbia than they had with the government of Russia. They were the only spokes in the wheel which retarded the country's prosperity. He would have more to say upon the estimates at another day.

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The hon. premier said that he was quite aware that similar resolutions had been passed once or twice before by this House, but he considered that this was an opportune time to again present it, as British Columbia's representatives at Ottawa were just now making a strong push to have the duty removed. The resolution if passed unanimously might have the effect of turning the scale in favor of the province. A year or two ago the provincial government had had occasion to import a certain special piece of machinery from California for the Nanaimo works, which was never manufactured or attempted to be manufactured in Canada. The government applied to the Federal government for a remission of duty on this piece of machinery and the request was granted, but the order-in-council was passed granting the rebate. It had not been received, however, as the Minister of Customs still refused to admit that parts of the machinery could be imported duty free. Even if as good machinery could be manufactured in eastern Canada, the geographical position of British Columbia was such that it would be more advantageous to buy from California, which was a nearer neighbor. California was an old mining country, experienced and fully understanding the requirements of a mining district; it was no reflection on the Dominion or Dominion manufacturers to ask that the duty be removed until the necessary apparatus for quartz mining could be procured equally advantageously in the country. Hon. Mr. Robson was heartily astonished that the Dominion Government should meet quartz mining at the door, and catch it by the throat with the demand of 30 per cent. import duty.

Mr. Mason, in seconding the resolution, said that this was the third time that a resolution of this kind had been before the House; twice it had been introduced by the premier, and now it was the best interests of the country, as it prevented the settler from securing his rights and benefitted speculators solely. Under the system of selling of unsurveyed land now in vogue anyone could pick out the best of the public domain, have it surveyed and then shut it up from desirable settlement. Thousands of acres of land were annually purchased as pastoral land at $1 an acre, which had not one characteristic of pastoral land. The settler who came to British Columbia was at the mercy of speculators, and after trying vainly to secure a home here he almost invariably drifted across to Washington, where his rights were properly guarded and his interests protected. What the matter with the present government was, was that each member was too much engaged with his private interests. In was true the Provincial Secretary was generally to be found in his office; but it was because he had no office down town. He was the head of the education department, which was run merely as an implement of political power. It was only necessary to refer to the correspondence just printed for the perusal of the House to see that the education department was formed simply and solely to crush Independence and encourage sycophancy. One teacher had conscientiously said that he could not comply with a certain rule, and his certificate was promptly cancelled. Others had not been so conscientious and were raised to the highest pinnacle. To be a good government, a government should endeavor to make it hard to do wrong and easy to do right, not vice versa. Take the treasury department;—it had been shown that their estimates were entirely unreliable. Language could not express his contempt for a government so conducted. Every system in the treasury department was abused. There was absolutely no check on the special warrant system, or the collection of revenue. The department had no head, no direction. The hon. the attorney-general was continually and simply absorbed in a gigantic effort to retain his private practice at the bar. He was never to be found in the attorney-general's office, and when the House not long ago called for certain returns from that department a portion was forthcoming. The remainder was mixed up with his private affairs at his private office. Past attorney-generals had not done as the present incumbent of the office—sacrifice the public interest for the benefit of his private practice. The only legislation he had introduced this year, his Legal Professions Act, was simply a measure to keep legal men of better intellect than his own out of the country. British Columbia would be much better without any government at all than with the present one. The opposition had asserted that the past year's maladministration by the government would result in the reduction of the appropriation for public works. The estimate for this year under the head of salaries had been increased by $9,000, but there had been a reduction of $135,000 on public works. Referring to Hon Mr. Davie's remarks in reference to the conduct of Victoria's mayor and aldermen, he said that he thought it was the best recommendation that their character or ability could receive to be assailed as they had by the attorney-general. After reviewing what he termed the "picayune" remarks of the attorney-general, he closed his remarks for the time by saying that to attribute the first part of the prosperity of the country to the Government was the height of absurdity, they had no more to do with the prosperity of British Columbia than they had with the government of Russia. They were the only spokes in the wheel which retarded the country's prosperity. He would have more to say upon the estimates at another day.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robson, seconded by Hon. Mr. Vernon, the debate was adjourned until Wednesday.

TRANSMITTED BY MESSAGE.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented messages from the Lieut.-Governor, accompanying bills respecting the Columbia & Kootenay Railway land grant, and the Shuswap & Okanagan Railway bill. To be referred to committee of the whole on Wednesday.

The House rose at 5:30 p.m.

THIRTY-FIRST DAY.

WEDNESDAY, March 19th.

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

Prayers by Rev. Dr. Reid.

B. C. SOUTHERN.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented a return of correspondence, etc., connected with the B. C. Southern Railway.

PETITION.

Mr. Haslam laid before the House the petition of 1,200 coal miners of British Columbia, requesting that the employment of Chinese in the underground works be prohibited by law.

The petition of Eli Hallet and other voters of Victoria, to support references to the Chinese question was read and ordered printed.

MINING MACHINERY.

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