

Provincial Legislature

Second Reading of Game Act Moved by the Provincial Secretary.

Amendment Songhees Reserve Bill Ruled Out in the Committee.

A Quiet and Short Sitting—Transacts Only Routine Business.

Thursday, March 9. The House assembled at 2 o'clock and after prayers were read by Rev. Mr. Hicks the following was the order of business:

1. Introduction of Bill. Dr. King introduced a bill to amend the Supreme Court Act.

Mr. Murphy asked: Is it the intention of the government to expend the unexpended balance of the \$10,000 voted for roads and trails for Cariboo district last session before the 30th June next? 2. Is it the intention of the government to expend the unexpended balance of the \$20,000 voted for the Cariboo main trunk road, before the 30th June next? 3. Has the \$10,000 voted for road machinery last session been all expended? If not, how much of it remains unexpended? 4. What has been the total cost of the Chinney Creek bridge and approaches to date? 5. Were any complaints made to the government against Robert McLaren, former road superintendent in Cariboo district? If so, what were they and by whom made? 6. Why was Robert McLaren dismissed as road superintendent? 7. Who has charge of the protection work now being done on the Quesset river at Quesset? 8. Has anyone other than the person in charge the right to dictate what persons shall obtain employment on said work?

Hon. Mr. Green replied: Yes; 2. Yes; if necessary; 3. No; \$3,237.30; 4. \$70,805; 5. No record of any; 6. At end of season his engagement ceased; 7. R. Rutherford; 8. No, except by direction of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.

The Land Registry Act was further considered on report and adopted, with amendments.

Songhees Reserve. The bill respecting the Songhees reserve was committed. Mr. Ellison in the chair.

Mr. Cameron offered an amendment proposing the following conditions to the bill:

1. For a free grant to the city of Victoria of the twenty-five acres (more or

less) of the reserve lying to the north of the Esquimalt road, such land to be used for public park purposes, upon such terms and conditions as the Lieutenant-Governor in council may prescribe.

2. By giving to the city of Victoria the first right to purchase (more or less) of the said reserve lying to the south of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo roads, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the city and the Lieutenant-Governor in council.

3. By a free grant to the city of Victoria of sites for purposes of (a) public school or schools, (b) fire hall, (c) three public landing places, including wharves and buildings, upon such terms and conditions as the Lieutenant-Governor in council may prescribe.

4. The remaining portions of the reserve may be disposed of by public auction, under the terms and conditions as provided by the Land Act.

In a word, the bill is designed to allow the reopening of assessments on mining properties, and the correction of same, where subsequent investigation shows that a proper disclosure of assets has not been made.

Game Act. The Provincial Secretary moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Game Act. In doing so he observed that there were not only ethical reasons for the preservation of the game, but there were practical reasons as well. In the state of Maine, for instance, where great attention is paid to the protection of game, and where large numbers of sportsmen annually forego their about six million dollars in spent every year for parties going there to hunt. In California, which attracts a great number of tourists, many of whom go there to hunt and fish, it is estimated that some twenty million dollars were distributed annually from this source. In settlements on the Nipigon river, a famous trout stream of Ontario, about forty thousand dollars was spent every year by sportsmen, and this was but a small station on the north shore of Lake Ontario. This river, while famous throughout Canada, was not nearly so good for trout fishing as many streams in this province. The game laws were paid to the protection of the game, British Columbia might derive not only a revenue for its provincial treasury, but great financial benefits for the people. There were large numbers of sportsmen who came in at the present time for big game hunting and some for feathered

game shooting, and there was every promise of a growing trade in this line, if measures were taken to secure the preservation of the game. One of the main principles of the bill was contained in the last two sections, which provided for the appointment of a game warden. Experience had proved that they could not expect to have the game laws efficiently administered until some official was appointed whose exclusive duty it should be to see that the game was protected. For the present the appointment of only one warden was contemplated, as financial considerations would not allow them to go further at present. He had for many years advocated that a small gun licence be charged in order to provide funds to be used mainly for the protection of game. That did not seem to have obtained favor although he believed there was a certain amount of revulsion of feeling, and that a great many sportsmen of the province were coming to believe that this was a proper thing to do. The Farmers' Institute only a few days ago passed resolutions advocating the imposition of a \$10 licence. He would not go so far as that. Under the present act it was expected also that the appointment of a warden would be charged with the collection, and the revenue would be increased. Information had reached the department that a certain number of non-resident sportsmen came into the province without contributing their share. At present the enforcement of the law was entrusted to constables who were not adapted by knowledge of game to enforce a close observance of its provisions. They looked upon it as an outside matter and one with which they should not be bothered or concerned. With the appointment of a warden these conditions would be changed and the enforcement of the law would be made more effective. The minister then proceeded to an explanation of the various clauses of the bill, which has already been given in the

debate.

Mr. Williams moved the adjournment of the House.

The bill to incorporate the British Columbia Insurance Co. and the bill respecting the Brunette Sawmill Co. passed third reading.

The House rose at 4 o'clock.

Notes. Some speculation was occasioned in the legislature yesterday by Mr. Williams moving the adjournment of the House on the bill to amend the Game Act. It was at first thought that he had discovered some objection to the measure, and that he was about to withdraw the bill. However, it was soon ascertained that the member for Newcastle who the trouble was, who is an ardent champion of game protection, being unavoidably absent, had expressed his desire to address the next session, and asked his colleague to see that he did not miss the opportunity. The

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Fate of Kuropatkin's Army Unknown at St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG, March 10.—(8:15 a. m.)—St. Petersburg today knows nothing of the outcome of the battle of Mukden or of the fate of Gen. Kuropatkin's beaten army.

The most important news received from Russian sources is the Associated Press information that the Japanese already have reached the Hun river. Fu pass is twelve miles east of Mukden and well westward of Gen. Linerth's line of retreat. It is probable that unless the Russians are able to defend the crossing of the river, the Japanese will be cut off and have to shift for themselves in the mountainous region north of Fushan against expeditionary forces of Japanese, which are reported from Chinese sources to be racing toward the Pass.

2. By giving to the city of Victoria the first right to purchase (more or less) of the said reserve lying to the south of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo roads, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the city and the Lieutenant-Governor in council.

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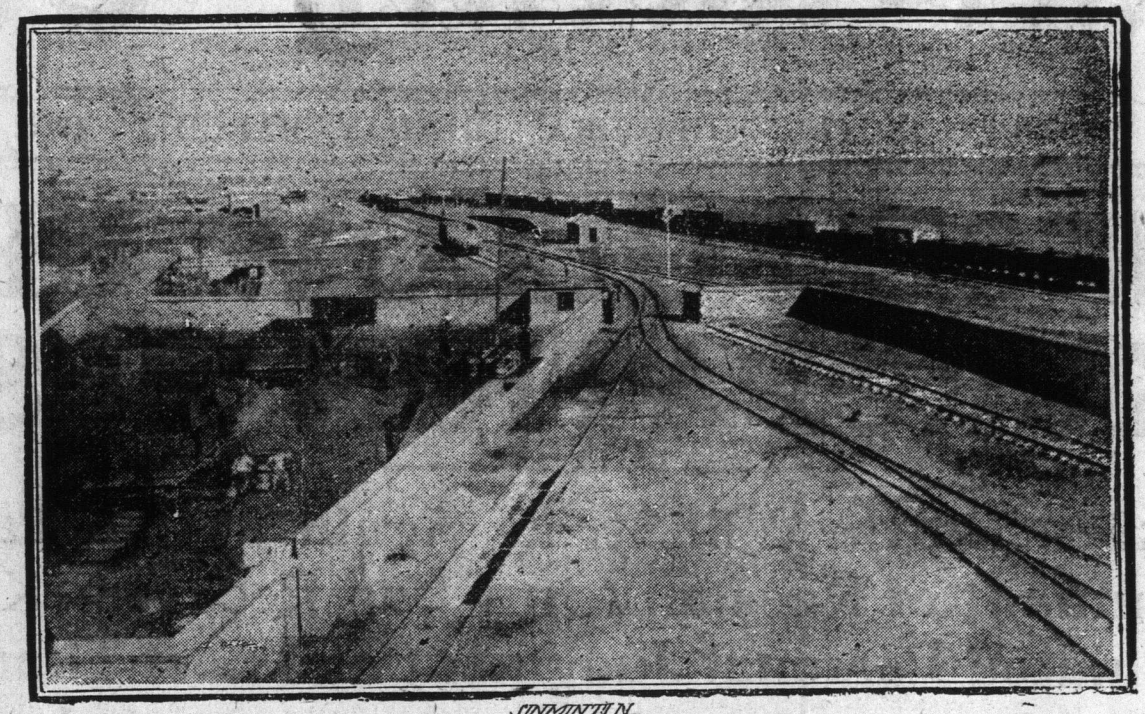
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ON THE RUSSIAN RIGHT FLANK.



Simintun, or Hainintun, situated in lat. 41.58 north, long. 122.42 east, is 40 miles from Mukden by road, on the Imperial highway to Shanhaiwan, on the Chinese coast, and a few miles from the right bank of the Lia. It is the terminus of the branch railway connecting at Koupantze with the Chinese railway between Newchwang (Yinkow) and Pekin. The Russians used this railway a good deal in transporting supplies, and, as despatches of yesterday state, the Japanese are beginning to transport stores over the line. Journeying over the line in September last, special trains were seen carrying thousands of Chinese refugees from Mukden and the districts beyond under the auspices of the Chinese Red Cross Society. Russian officers made use of the line a good deal in journeying to and from the front. There are 25,000 Chinese at Simintun in peace time. Greeks and others who were following the Russian army to trade made their headquarters there prior to the Japanese occupation. The Hungtuz brigades, who were in the pay of the Japanese, operated in the territory to the south of Simintun, and, according to a despatch of yesterday, have extended their scope to the place. Yesterday's despatches tell of an execution of two Russian officers at Simintun.

LOOKING TOWARDS INDIA.

Russia Said to Be Moving Men and Guns towards Pamirs.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—Russia is strengthening her army strength, both in men and guns, in the direction of Indo-China. Sensational rumors of the despatch of reinforcements for Russian troops were current two months ago, but they were then denied. The Russian press, however, has been taking in the authority of a traveler of unimpeachable veracity, who has just arrived from Tashkent, and who was personally a witness of the military activity on the recently completed Tashkent and other railways through Merv to Krasnovodsk. Troops, guns and munitions of war have been moving southward for two months. Between the middle of January and the middle of February, 15 military trains went to the south, and 15 more are now moving southward for two months. The guns were mostly sent from Merv, from whence a purely military railway goes to Kurek, the traveler's question was informed, although he had no possible knowledge of the point, that Russian troops had crossed the Pamirs at Kurek, and had been kept under the closest surveillance. The baggage of this traveler was twice seized and searched, and the statement being regarded as most significant, that local officers have been ordered not to permit Englishmen to travel in Russian Turkestan, and that the Russian government has forbidden to allow Englishmen to land on the eastern shore. It was said that the Russian government has forbidden to allow Englishmen to land on the eastern shore. It was said that the Russian government has forbidden to allow Englishmen to land on the eastern shore.

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LOOKING TOWARDS INDIA.

Russia Said to Be Moving Men and Guns towards Pamirs.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—Russia is strengthening her army strength, both in men and guns, in the direction of Indo-China. Sensational rumors of the despatch of reinforcements for Russian troops were current two months ago, but they were then denied. The Russian press, however, has been taking in the authority of a traveler of unimpeachable veracity, who has just arrived from Tashkent, and who was personally a witness of the military activity on the recently completed Tashkent and other railways through Merv to Krasnovodsk. Troops, guns and munitions of war have been moving southward for two months. Between the middle of January and the middle of February, 15 military trains went to the south, and 15 more are now moving southward for two months. The guns were mostly sent from Merv, from whence a purely military railway goes to Kurek, the traveler's question was informed, although he had no possible knowledge of the point, that Russian troops had crossed the Pamirs at Kurek, and had been kept under the closest surveillance. The baggage of this traveler was twice seized and searched, and the statement being regarded as most significant, that local officers have been ordered not to permit Englishmen to travel in Russian Turkestan, and that the Russian government has forbidden to allow Englishmen to land on the eastern shore.

Speaking generally, the Associated Press informant said that the greatest tranquility prevails in the Turkestan region, and that the Russian government has forbidden to allow Englishmen to land on the eastern shore.

The Associated Press informant states that the greatest secrecy is observed. Travelers, who are rare, are provided with special permits from the minister of war and are kept under the closest surveillance. The baggage of this traveler was twice seized and searched, and the