The Budget Speech

The Finance Minister Elaborates the Estimates in a Brief Address.

The Cassiar Members Anxious to Have Atlin Difficulties Adjusted.

Over Half of the Appropriations Passed the Legislature Before Midnight.

A Tilt Between Messrs. Prentice and McInnes--End in Sight.

Thursday, August 16. ceedings in the House was the budget so, by whom? speech of the Finance Minister, and the fact that evening sessions were commenced. The speech itself was brief and not marked by any announcement of im-

Prayers were read by Rev. Rural Dean and with what result? Bearber. Mr. Helmcken reported for the private bills committee. This favored the Kiti-

maat-Caledonia enterprise, and was adopted. The time for receiving reports this committee was then extended ten days from date. The report of the railway committee was unfavorable to the Chikat Pass

Navigation & Railway Co., on the ground that it was not desirable in the interests of the province that such charters be granted. Mr. Pooley moved that the report be

received, which was carried, Another report from the same committee favored the Kamloops-Atlin Railway Co. bill. This was also adopted.

amend the Licensing Act, which was received and read a first time. Mr. Houston's bill amending the Water Clauses Act was also received.

Hon. Mr. McBride introduced a bill to serving in South Africa from the regulations of the Mining Act, which would find ourselves in this position of having affect their claims, while absent in the to refer to the public accounts of the service of their country. The bill was previous year, which ended on the 30th received and read a first time.

Mr. Clifford moved for copies of all complaints made by people in Atlin district against government officials there, since 1st January, 1898, and the answers given by the government thereto.

In doing so he explained that he wished to draw the attention of the members and the government to a large number of complaints which had reached him from hydraulic men and miners. It was urged that Commissioner Grahame and other officials unduly favored the hydraulic miners. Blanketing creeks was one of the evils complained of. Under this system if a creek claim was not represented on opening day it became part of the bench which flanked it. The miners hold that this should, if unrepresented, revert to the Crown. Mr. Grahame was financial year, an extension of time was an efficient, upright and honorable man, always given in order to get the accounts imputation of favoritism.

empower Mr. Justice Martin to hold a measure from the configuration of court of enquiry. The miners had found the province and from the difficulty. the the country and they shound mave prior- impossibility in some cases, of getting ity over the hydraulic men in such a in the accounts which properly belong to

He also asked the government to carry out to the letter the order forbidding government officials holding mineral claims or participating in anw benefits He believed that some of the officials did hold such claims. It was frequently asserted that they did, and he believed with some truth.

He stamped the remuneration for gold commissioner as totally inadequate. At present he received only \$175 a month, while he should receive \$3,500 per annum, so that he would be removed from the necessity of engaging in anything else. The same applied to the recorder

and clerks and constables. Much of the trouble arose through hydraulic leases being allowed to be taken up the first year after the discovery of a creek. If hydraulic leases were suspended for three years after discovery it would give the miners an opportunity to

work out the creek beds." Mr Stables confirmed the remarks of his colleagues. He had had similar representations from the miners.

He was not so sure of the ability of the gold commissioner. He knew which tied up the country until the arrival of Judge Irving, who had straightened the matter out. It was in the interests of the country to have the matof these complaints should be made to prove statements or withdraw them.

The Minister of Mines promised an inentirely new one and the government was anxious to set the matter at rest. While admitting that there was force in what Mr. Clifford had said in regard to the Mining Act he could not promise that the House could undertake these amendments at once. It would be taken up by ing in some, at any rate, of that money, the mining commission, which the government intended issuing.

He assured the members for Cassiar that no pains would be spared to straighten out the difficulties which had arisen.

Mr. Clifford asked the following ques won:

(1.) Is it the intention of the government to enquire into the conduct of E. ing Wm. Queen in jail for alleged con-Brynildson), for culpable studidity in cancelling the votes of ten of the electors without cause?

royalty and licenses, there is an increase Mr. Eberts replied: (1.) The Attorney of \$10,000. That arises from the inten-

General's department is making an en- tion of the government to make some some have been overlooked, and I may stantly going for small sums, such a member for Kootenay smiling-but quiry into the facts in connection with the alleged imprisonment of one Wm. Queen, for contempt of court. (2.) Unfortunately, I know of no means whereby tent. a man may be punished for such stu-

Mr. Gilmour asked: (1.) Was an injunction issued at the instance of the government against the building of a sawmill on Deadman's Island? If so, when? (2.) Is it the intention of the government to move in the way of withdrawing the said injunction? If not, why not? (3.) What action, if any, is it the intention of the government to take with reference to said injunction?

Hon. Mr. Eberts replied: (1.) No; an interim injunction was issued restraining Theo. Ludgate from cutting any trees or otherwise trespassing on said land, 16th May, 1899. This injunction will remain the injunction action now pending. Mr. McInnes asked the following ques-

1. Were any complaints made concerning the technical knowledge or building experience of A. W. Walkley, Esq., in connection with his services on the recon-The feature of this afternoon's pro- struction of the Victoria court house? If

> 2. Did the government cause any inquiry to be made into the technical knowledge or building experience of the said A. W. Walkley before he was removed from his position on the reconstruction of the Victoria court house? If so, by whom,

11. 1. . . 3. What does the government know about the technical knowledge or building experience of the said A. , W. Walk-

Hon. Mr. Wells said these questions are not in order, as they refer to questions already answered this session. The House then went into supply, the Finance Minister delivering the budget

Hon, Mr. Turner in rising said: "In

moving that the House go into committee of supply, I must call attention to the fact that owing to conditions that have been existing for some time past, I can hardly take up this matter in the ledge the principle that when this resolution is made, the mover, in speaking of Hon. Mr. Eberts introduced his till to the finances of the country, refers to the public accounts for the preceding year, comparing them with the public accounts of the year then to be provided for. Owing to the election that has occurred in this province, and owing to relieve the volunteers of this province what I might call the extra session. which took place early in the year, we of June, 1898, and which would in order come up at the regular session of the House, which took place in February last. Owing to certain things which occurred then, the estimates were never introduced, and the condition arose that another year has elapsed, terminating since the session was held in Februarythat is terminating on the 30th of June. 1900. Consequently we find ourselves face to face with the fact that we cannot avoid very well taking up the accounts terminating on the 30th of June, 1900, though at the same time they are not actually before the House. I might perhaps explain, though, the reason why are not before the House. It arises in a great measure from the fact that at a certain period, at the termination of the and it was unfair not to straighten out in for that year. So that the accounts the matter so as to relieve him from the that are furnished for actual payment made up to the 31st of August go into The speaker asked the government to the previous year. This arises in a the previous year, until six weeks or perhaps two months after the actual ter-With this exmination of that year. planation, I simply say that I propose, though we have not those account completely before us, to refer to those accounts to a certain extent, and I think

penditure to the 30th of June last year at a certain figure. "In referring to the estimates, I think, the method usually followed in all legis latures, is to deal first with the previ ous year's accounts, which, owing to the conditions that I have pointed out, are not altogether available. Now, if we refer to the estimates which have been laid on the table of the House, we find that the estimates of receipts for the year amounts to \$1.757.239.45, whereas the estimates on expenditure for the year ending 30th of June last amount to \$2,218,328. Now it will be seen that the estimated revenue is some \$217,989 in excess of the amount estimated for the year ending 30th of June last, and this arises under several heads. I will refer of to these as they appear under the head cases where injunctions had been issued, of recepits in the estimates placed before the House.

"The first of these is the land sales.

I am entitled to that from the fact that

in reply to a question the other day I

stated the approximate revenue and ex-

That is estimated at \$15,000 in excess of the amount as made for the previous ter thoroughly sifted and the originators year. I am informed that there is every reason to believe that we can obtain larger amounts of payments from lands, and it is the intention of the government quiry at once. That matter was not an to do something with regard to the preemptions as an inducement for persons who find their payments in arrears, of which there is a very large sum, approximating, I am told, \$1,000,000 and interest on the same. It is the intention of the government, with a view of bringto make certain concessions which I cannot fully explain at present, but which will be laid before the House later on. (Applause.) I feel confident that this will induce certain settlers to make payments so that before the 30th of June next we hope to have a substantial showing from this policy. I grant, sir, that we have underestimated this item on the whole, but it is probably better to do so than to overestimate. I might M. N. Woods, stipendiary magistrate at say that the same applies to these esti-Atlin, on the 30th July last, in confirm- mates all the way through. Still the revenues are, of course, uncertain, owtempt of court? (2.) Is it the intention of ing to changing conditions in the country, the government to punish the deputy returning officer at Bella Coola (B. that instead of increasing \$217,000 it will be over \$300,000. "Under the next heading of timber

is an increase of \$5,000. That is a very ment came in they found there was a ly in this last case, but in any case, in I will come to that later on, moderate increase, and is one which is tremendous lot of back work on their influenced by the condition of affairs in hands. Now when I say that I do not have some of this on hand, and it would terday by the hon, member for Nor connection with the mining industry, as at all propose to blame the previous compared with previous years. I think government. I have no doubt it arose it is a very conservative estimate of the largely from the unsettled condition of increase under that head.

"In the item of mining receipts general there is an increase of \$25,000. I doubt did affect the business of the prothink I need hardly say anything more vince, because it is a fact that in some about that, which means an advance from some \$50,000 in previous years, than that the indications that we have in the mining districts seem to warrant conditions existing, and we were still the assumption that we shall have that increase of revenue.

"Referring to the receipts from the in force until trial of action. (2.) It is not tax on wild lands, there is an increase ment. The government wanted to meet intended to remove injunction until the of \$5,000. This is based on the fact the House at that time, but it was question as to whether Deadman's Is- that the government intend to go more found impossible to do so, as the work land belongs to the Province or Dominion fully into the matter of taxes on the could not be brought up in time. So in is decided. (3.) To proceed to trial of wild lands, with a view of deriving a the present case in going through the fuller return.

"Under the head of income tax there is an increase of \$10,000. That arises from a proposed change in the assessment act increasing in some cases the tax on incomes. Of course from \$1,000 there will be a different division of the tax upon incomes, and increasing in proportion to the amount. I may state in which I think some members of the House have suggested this session, that is that if an income of \$5,000 pays 1 per cent, an income of \$5,500 shall not all come under the \$10,000 rate, but pay the \$5,000 rate up to \$5,000, and the highor rate on the excess.

"Under the head of revenue tax there is an increase of \$40,000. That is a tax concerning which there has been considerable difficulty. It has always been felt in this House that this tax was not collected, and I think that the measure we are taking now in this directron will insure a better collection of that tax. In many districts we have to resort to the commission system in collecting that tax, for we find that where this system is adopted it comes in very much better and works fairer to all par-

"Coming to the mineral tax, there is also a slight increase under that head. usual way. I think all must acknow- We have only estimated \$5,000 over that of last year, but as a matter of fact that is a very much larger increase in reality, because in this case I must refer to the actual receipts of last year, and not to the estimates of last year. The estimated receipts for that year were \$60,000, whereas it only produced \$31,-000, but it is the intention of the government, under certain conditions, to increase that mineral tax, taking care, of course, to protect the small miner, so that it will not be an increase on him, face of it, that that tax should only propenditures in connection with the mining districts, it seems hardly proportionate. Of course, it is said on the other hand that that is not all the revenue we get from mining properties. We get miners' licenses, and mining receipts generally which are very large, endeavor to right what I think has been wrong hitherto in the very small

amount received from that source. "Under the head of Chinese restriction, an increase is shown of \$10,000, I think there is a very great uncertainty about that. Of course we know that the tax upon the Chinese has been largely increased, but I fancy that the influx of Chinese will as a consequence be very much smaller.

"As to succession duties the same remark applies.

"Then comes a very important matter. That is the royalty tax on coal. It is estimated that this will realize \$90,000. That, of course, refers to a tax on all the coal in the province, of five cents per ton, and in addition to the royalty on coke. This means a tax therefore on the total product of coal in the province of British Columbia. At the same time though we estimate this to produce the sum of \$90,000, yet it is not a clear increase to the revenue, because on the other hand the coal mines and coal mining property have been under taxation as personal property hitherto, and you cannot tax personal property and then tax the revenue derived from that personal property. That would be dual taxation. So that though this estimate appears as \$90,000, on the other hand it will be seen that under the head of personal property tax that estimate shows a decrease of \$20,000 from the estimate of the previous year. Now that is a little more, I think, than the actual tax on the personal property of coal mines brings in now, but it is approximately correct, and taking these together there is a total increase of \$90,000, and there is a decrease against that of \$20,000, so that the actual increase is a little over

\$70,000 "That is another item of miscellaneous receipts, \$20,000. The estimate for the previous year, under this head, was But there was some special \$30,000. return at that time which estimated a refund from the Dominion government,

so that the estimate is actually the same as that of the previous year. "Now, turning to the estimate of expenditure, we find an increase under that head of \$343,595 over the previous year. Now this increase is first seen under the head of civil government (salaries) and administration of justice salaries). Apparently there is an increase under these two heads of \$30,000. but as a matter of fact that is hardly an actual increase of salaries. The actual increase arose in this way: \$20,000 in 1897 or 1898 providing for the borwas attributable to new appointments necessitated in the North, and in variour parts of the province, where recent developments have made such a step necessary. The difference between this the remains of the previous loan, some sum and \$30,000 was due almost entirely to a return to the amount of salary paid When I say return I may explain that there are some cases of old employees who have been restored to a loan that was offered they took part of basis much lower than that enjoyed by them prior to 1898.

Brown-You have overlooked Mr. Hon, Mr. Turner-It is possible that

change with respect to the royalty im- say here what I intended to say before posed on timber, which will, it is esti- in this connection. It is this. That it mated, increase the revenue to that ex- is well known that the elections took place a very short time before the meet-"Under free miners' certificates, there ing of the House, and when the governaffairs in the province owing to the elections coming on, which I have no of the departments there are months of back work which have to be brought up. Now when we came in we found these more hampered by an incessant stream of deputations from all over the province seeking the attention of the governestimates, and as to the salaries to which the honorable member for New Westminster has alluded, it is possible that there may have been some cases where deserving persons have been overlooked. At the same time we have endeavored to avoid this, and I think on the whole we have fairly considered all those that were entitled to this conthat it is proposed to do this in the way sideration. Now, I have said that this expenditure is an increase of some \$343, 000 over that of the previous year. This arises, as pointed out, partly from salaries, but the principal item of increase comes under the head of public works. There is also a slight increase under the head of education, put down at \$304,500 for last year, but which is now \$326,000.
"This is a matter of the most vital

consideration for this province. This does not represent the real cost for educational purposes. This only applies to the running of schools. There is the cost of building schools, which reaches a very considerable amount, and which has to be added to the cost, and it is telt that before another session, this to be added to the cost, and it is question should be fully considered and a plan devised by which some relief can be given to the province in connection with educational expenses. We all believe, I think, in establishing a thoroughly good educational system for this pro-We want to keep it up to the foremost lines, and the difficulty, then, is to carry out what we wish and yet take it in moderate bounds in connection with expenditure so as to apportion it to the actual revenue of the province. Because on first glance this expenditure seems to be very much out of proportion to our other expenditures. I know it looks that way in comparison with other provinces. I fancy that as a province we expend more than any other. Of course we have different conditions but will apply itself more particularly here owing partly to our municipal arto the larger properties, which we feel rangements. Other provinces, such as confident are not contributing the re- Ontario, and I suppose Quebec, do not venue to this province which they are show in their estimates the actual exentitled to pay. It is absurd, on the penditure in this connection for the whole country. In our case, the total difference has been taken from the revdue \$31,000; when we turn to the ex- expenditure for the whole province is shown, and it is a matter for serious showing for this province. I feel that consideration as to whether this can be we have had a good return for that inadjusted in some way so as not to bear | vestment in public works, as I will show too hard on the people and still keep up later. a thorough system of education.

"Then, as I said, a great increase ocbut they are not taxes at all. They are This year the cost of this service is esthis is not any too large an increase in is a fact that owing, perhaps, to the enexpenditures, that many parts of the country have been neglected. Consequently there is a very much larger demand for ordinary repairs than there would otherwise have been. This lapse in the life of the province has not only entailed the loss arising from the deterioration of our public works, but added to that is the fact that they have gone back in many instances, had lost their value to a certain extent, and now what is to be done, Mr. Speaker, is to take up the threads again and start the loom afresh. We feel, and this government has always felt, that it is of the utmost importance that this province should be ened up by such works as are provided for in this connection. It is impossible for this country to advance, unroads, bridges, and various public services, through the province. I will turn later to the results, as I think, of the expenditures on these public works, but I think it can be admitted at once that this country cannot hope to increase its population, and its revenues, unless it

is treated with a liberal hand. This shows, however, as a final result, that the expenditure this year is approximately \$500,000 over the estimates, because on the first of July last, we came in without money in the treas-There was a loan made last year ury. on which we were unable to realize, and consequently we had to fall back on the revenue, and the revenue, as pointed out. is some \$500,000 less than the expendi-

"Now the ordinary way in connection with public works and the large expenditure it entails is to provide that a loan shall be raised for such works, and in the ordinary way there would be no difficulty in that respect because the province has got in such a condition that it is known to be worthy of credit, by those to whom we would look for loans. But just now that is simply impossible It would be suicidal to propose in this House to pass a bill for a loan just now, as owing to the present conditions in the European money market a loan would be floated with great disadvantage, I think, though I do not like to refer to these matters, that a very great mistake was made in connection with the loan of 1899. There was an act passed rowing of a large sum of money, part of which was to be applied for railway subsidies, and the balance for public works in the province. There was also two or three hundred thousand pounds which had never been fully taken up. Now the mistake in 1899 was this: that instead of taking up the whole of the it, for what reason I do not know, but I know contrary to the general opinion of financiers, because it you go for a loan it is hest to raise a fairly considerable amount so that you are not con- they hardly need it. I see the honorable

practice being prejudicial to the credit feel confident if the member for Ko of a country. But there is a very good enay will consider these expenditures reason for that in connection with our view of the improvements made in loans, as you know they have been taken own districts he will agree that the up by the underwriters. Now, especial have been beneficial to the country, and the former loan as well, the underwriters be prejudicial to seek another loan un- Nanaimo, in connection with an applie der those circumstances. This was the tion for a railway charter, that the pr case in 1899, that loan being practically sent government had followed the poa failure so far as the public was con- of a former government, that was cerned, as not one cent of it had been courage monopolies to the detrime taken by them, whereas of former loans the public. Well, Mr. Speaker, I w seventy-five per cent. was taken. I may like to have it more definitely st say to-day that the last quotation of the what monopolies have been encou B. C. loan was only 93, and the underwriters took it at 96; that is, that the the previous government or by the underwriters stand to lose about three sent one. I would like to have that g per cent. Therefore, if we went to the market now, your underwriters would be already loaded, and they would oppose very much any further loan being figures at this time, I can state raised at the present time. I was looking to-day at the last quotations. I see that Dominion is quoted at 101, Ceylon at 100, and British Columbia at 93, a seven per cent, difference between Ceylon and British Columbia, whereas it used to be four per cent. Even between this province and Nova Scotia a preference is made. Iast year it was favorable to this province, this year it was unfavorable. This shows that there 'is something wrong in the state of Denmark' when our loan has gone so much out of proportion to what it was before. For these reasons it is very evident that it would be a very bad policy to attempt to raise a loan for public works. Instead of that, arrangements have been made with the bank, and the bank is willing to allow us to overdraw to the extent of our requirements up to the We have had his resolution in respect 30th of June, 1901, and of course there that. The policy of that hon, gentle is one advantage in that, too. In a loan you have to borrow a lump sum and pay interest on the whole of it, whereas in getting this money from the bank it is simply current account, and if you withdraw \$100,000 to-day you can pay in \$40,000 to morrow, and are only paying interest on the actual overdraft in the interim, so that it does not come to so high a rate as the other. That is why we propose to provide for this expendi-ture. I put this before the House be-

cause the question will eventually arise, What do you propose to do in respect to this? "And now, coming to the public debt of the province, I have thought it advisable to refer to this matter at this time. The public debt at present, less sinking fund, is about \$5,000,000, approximately. Now, comparing that with the public debt of 1894, we find that the public debt at that time, less sinking fund, was \$2,129,000, so that there is an increase of \$3,000,000 since that year. In connection with that I must just make a slight reference in connection with the way this money, this \$3,000, 000, has been expended. I find that the public works executed since 1894 amount to \$4,503,904. So that \$3,000,000 of this has been provided by loan, and the enue. I do not think that is a very bad

"What I refer to specially are these things. The province has got in considcurs under the heading of public works, eration of that expenditure vast assets country which is developing where we in the shape of railroads, because the have expended capital for roads, and virtually payments for a right. They timated at \$665,323, whereas last year government has paid a considerable sum other means of development, and where enable a man to take possession of a it amounted to \$335,698, showing an ap- to railroads, and there is approximately, the capitalist will be protected in his the accounts for the 30th of June, 1900, property, but a mineral tax is only a proximate increase of \$300,000. I think I think, 600 or 1,000 miles of railway investment and have a chance of gettax on the mines direct, and this is an it will be admitted by the province that that has been built largely through the ting a profit on his enterprise. The assistance of the government. We have the expenditure in that connection, It been building railroads, public roads, and public buildings, all over the prodeavor a year ago to reduce public works | vince. Well, these are assets against | that loan. These are the assets in addi- There is no question about that. Take tion to the lands of the province, so that capital out of this country to-day and I think we can claim that that expendi-

ture was a very good one. "In addition to that, too, we have the Dominion subsidy, which is coming in yearly, \$240,000 or \$300,000, which is a permanent asset, and which if capitalized would produce many millions of dollars, which would be placed against ceeding." loans which have been raised by this province. So that the debt of this pro- ing?" vince is not at all excessive taking into

consideration its assets. "In this connection I would like to re fer to the value of these assets as shown is this, that the government is charged by the increasing revenue from them to the province. Take the year 1894. The triment of the public. I say that the reason I take that year particularly is government of this country to-day, and ess we can have a large system of this, that up to that date the Land act the governments of this country for a was in a different condition. A large number of years before the late governamount of land sales were made prior to that date and after that year they the introduction of capital, and the depractically stopped. Now the revenue velopment of the country. I can go to in that year was \$798,507, while the revenue to the 30th of June in the last naime to-day and will find wages higher public accounts was \$1,509,581, an increase since 1894 of ninety per cent. hat is clearly a good showing, it seems to me.

"The expenditure in the same time increased. In 1893 and 1894 it amounted to the policy of this government, alto \$1,514,405; in 1898 and 1899 it though eighteen months ago, a reverse amounted to \$2,156,478, an increase of set in under the former regime. There forty-two and a half per cent., so that is a proof that the expenditures that have while the revenue increased ninety per been made by the government have been cent. the expenditure increased only of such a nature that there has been a forty-two and one-half per cent.

"Then I take another comparison. in the revenue of the province. That is with respect to the cost of running the province in that time. The expenditure for civil government administration of justice, and salaries, in 1893-94 was \$270,200; and in 1898-99 it was \$342,685. So that the cost of running has not increased at all in proportion to the increase of the revenue. The increase of the cost of administration in that time was 17 per cent., whereas the increase in the revenue was 90 per cent.

"Under another heading I see that the increase for education between those periods amounted to 59 per cent., outside of the buildings for educational purposes. On the other hand, the public works in that time increased 92 per cent., a little more than the increase in the revenue. I think that seems to indicate that there is a great deal of life at any rate in this province. It augurs backbone and shows clearly that the public works carried on in this province have returned a very

good result. "If I turn to the year in which I first came into this House, in 1887, (this is the twelfth time I have had the honor of introducing the budget) we find that the revenue was only \$598,000, and it increased now, as we see, to \$1,700.-That is very much over 300 per 000 in that time. I merely turn to these facts to give a little encouragement to the present members, though I think

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"Now it was stated in the House to the detriment of the public either tleman put his finger on a monopoly has been encouraged to the detrimed the province. Without going through through the policy of the govern preceding the last one, the affairs of province have been brought up to prosperity that in 1898 this was o the most prosperous provinces unde British government, and it stood credit also as one of the highest. policy of this government was courage the development of the pro-Its policy is now to endeavor to get ital into the province to build up in tries here, to add to its population. generally to diffuse prosperity through out British Columbia. I have no do that the policy of this governmen diametrically opposed to that of the h member for North Nanaimo, because policy of that hon, gentleman, if p sued to its full application, means the struction of property in this province man means the prevention of the intro duction of capital into this province and consequently it is a policy tending to work injury to the laboring man." Mr. McInnes-"Ha, ha.

Han Thener-"It is a policy also which means reduction of wages. That hon, gentleman denounced the leader of government as having a policy which encouraged monopoly, whereas the Premier has introduced a system of taxation by which his own property will pay \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year into this treasury for the benefit of the province. (Hear, hear.)

"Now, Mr. Speaker, is that an indication of a policy for the support of monopolies? What are these gentlemen saying? It is the easiest thing in the world for men to get up and declare that we are supporting monopolies, but I say that the hon, member for North Nanaimo is supporting monopoly, just as much or more than the government." Mr. McInnes-"Don't hit your desk.

There was a point of order taken on that yesterday."

Hon. Mr. Turner-"These are the facts. They evidently affect the hon. gentleman very much. They are true. If you bring labor into conflict with capital; if you do anything to weaken the credit of the country, thereby preventing capital from coming in, the wages of the laborer will fall. (Hear, hear.) He knows they should work together in sympathy. He knows that there is nothing so good for the working man, the artisan and mechanic of a country, as to convince the public that we have a workingman knows that if you can induce capital to come in that his wages will be increased and that a greater abundance of employment will result. what would wages be? They would decline immediately, I do not say that the gentlemen are wilful in their policy -that they really intend to drive out capital and to diminish wages, but the effect is there just the same. That would be the result of that sort of pro-

Hon. Mr. Turner-"I say that such a proceeding as you were speaking of yesterday. What I am speaking of now with encouraging monopolies to the dement, followed a policy of encouraging

mr. Curtis—"What sort of proceed

than they were before. Mr. McInnes-Not at all. Hon, Mr. Turner-You can go over the country anywhere in British Columbia and find more work and more wages due

the city of the member for North Na

direct and steady increase in prosperity. Mr. Curtis-Excuse me for a moment So far as the interior is concerned times were perfectly good up to the 10th December last, when the war news and other things affected capital,

Cries of "Oh, oh," and "What news? Mr. Curtis-The reports of reverses to the British arms had the effect of disturbing the money market in London. Before that the prices of mining stocks were never higher, for instance, \$3.90. Hon. Mr. Turner-I demur to that statement entirely as incorrect. The fact is that I have, through my own business connections, a practical knowledge the conditions of affairs in London, and I say they fell off much. Before that there was a brief shut-off of business generally throughout the province. The

hon, gentleman must know that. Turning from that again to this subject with respect to capital and monopolies, I would ask again what monopolies those gentlemen referred to? They do not know.

Mr. McInnes-Oh, yes I do. Hon. Mr. Turner-He has a great deal of poetry in his brain, I think. Mr. Curtis-I might mention the White

Pass railway monopoly. Hon, Mr. Turner-I am not speaking on the White Pass railway monopoly now

At this stage the Speaker ruled that it

leave t After vesterd looked the sur membe closed plunge again when half of ed. govern this af them This r is prac at the stacle charte waded differen