

Provincial Legislature

Bill to Amend Assessment Act in Committee of the Whole.

Some Important Amendments Made in the Settlers' Interests.

The Premier Continues Debate on Amendment Dyking Act.

Wednesday, March 22. THE HOUSE assembled at 2 o'clock and after prayers were read the following was the order of business:

Petitions. Mr. Murphy presented a number of petitions asking amendments to the Placer Mining Act.

Bills. Mr. Henderson introduced a bill to further amend the Supreme Court Act.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald introduced an order of the House be that correspondence relating to the pre-emption of Mr. Kirkland's claim, recorded in June 30, 1904, be brought down.

That an order be made that all correspondence relating to the Atlin townsite, and the new addition to Atlin townsite, be brought down.

The bill to amend the Stave Valley Railway Co. passed the committee stage.

Assessment Act. The bill to amend the Assessment Act was committed. Mr. Ross in the chair.

Constitutionally it seems that Dominion lands are not subject to provincial taxation. Mr. J. A. Macdonald therefore questioned the propriety of section 5, which stipulated that persons occupying these lands should contribute to the local treasury.

As there seemed to be something unintentionally ambiguous in the section, as the government avowed it was not intended to tax Dominion lands, whilst the section seemed to be to this effect, it was amended.

Mr. Ross introduced a bill to repeal the section which exempted clerical persons from tax.

Mr. Tatlow saw no objection to the amendment, as all incomes up to \$1000 were exempt under the general provision in the assessment act.

Mr. Tanner thought if the member for Nanaimo were in closer touch with the conditions of the city, he would not have introduced the bill.

Mr. Williams argued that the same justification which could be offered for relieving a clergyman of taxation would apply to a walking delegate of a trades union.

Mr. Cotton raised the point that the amendment was out of order, as it involved the imposition of a tax and encroached upon a prerogative of the government.

All these various amendments were comprehensively discussed, and action thereon was deferred until the next meeting of the committee, which is subject to the call of the chairman.

A meeting of the municipal committee of mines, and of the evening's meeting of the committee, which is subject to the call of the chairman.

Mr. Haworthwaite proposed to amend the section which provides for the payment of farm personality and income derived from farms by including farm implements, vehicles and live stock, the property of the farmer, and used for farming purposes, under the value of \$500.

This amendment was admitted by the Finance Minister.

Mr. Oliver argued that this amendment might be construed to mean that property up to \$1000 would be taxed and that \$500 value would be taxed for the full amount. He questioned the fairness of this.

The amendment passed.

Mr. McInnes proposed to exempt farm improvements up to the value of \$1000.

Mr. Tatlow said that the amendment proposed to reduce the tax on real estate up to \$3000 to three-fifths of one per cent. In view of this, he thought the objection of Mr. McInnes' amendment would be going too far.

Mr. McInnes and Mr. Oliver construed it that the Finance Minister was constrained to a preference for suggestions from the member for Nanaimo.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow observed that this amendment might be construed to a proposition that amendments, whether good or bad, should be rejected simply because they came from Mr. McInnes' constituency, and this he declined to assent to.

The amendment was defeated by a show of hands.

Mr. Haworthwaite moved in connection with section 14 to fix the taxation on real property up to the value of \$3000 at three-fifths of one per cent.

This amendment being consistent with the intentions of the government, as stated by the Finance Minister, was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow moved to increase the tax on wild land as provided in the bill from three to four per cent.

Mr. Oliver proposed to amend the motion increasing the tax to five per cent. The rate provided in the bill is one per cent.

The point was taken that the amendment was out of order, on the ground that it dealt with a matter which was not within the prerogative of the government.

A lengthy discussion ensued, in which parliamentary rules, precedents and Speakers' decisions were exhaustively investigated, and the writings of May, Bourne and other authorities on the subject were introduced to elucidate the question. Finally the chairman decided that the amendment was out of order.

Then the committee had the privilege of enacting upon a prerogative of the government.

mented upon the narrow mindedness displayed by opposition members in allowing party prejudice to give color to their discussion of this question, rather than a statesmanlike desire to assist any settlement of the problem involved.

This was an occasion above all others when a more generous view should obtain, for the government of the day had undertaken to grapple with a question which had been evaded in the past, and was entitled to the assistance of every member of the House.

While members were speaking, perhaps, in regard to their own constituencies first, they were none the less under obligation to dispassionately consider the interests of the province as a whole.

In fact, about one-fourth of the provincial indebtedness was incurred through public works undertaken in that district.

He found no fault with the government for what he had done in this regard, believing that the money had been expended in the public interest.

But they were legislating for one section of the province only, but for the country as a whole.

People who lived in the interior and in the valley settlements of the province had claims upon their attention.

The cost of dyking and improving the Fraser river valley should not be apportioned to the people of the coast.

Some of the speakers of Mr. Oliver, in which that gentleman had taken the broad ground that too much should be done by the government for what he had done in this regard, believing that the money had been expended in the public interest.

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bulkheads or filling in the hole which has been caused by the excavation. The report was adopted.

The sanitary inspector and building inspector, respecting the old stable on the corner of Kane and Quadra streets, street removal. The report was adopted.

James A. Mallette and several others, plumbers, presented a memorial, requesting civic recommendation respecting the use of a certain type of pipes and fittings.

There are a large number of "standard" fittings of this type which must be used up. This was laid on the table.

The secretary of the Victoria West Municipal Association forwarded a memorial asking for the completion of the sewerage system proposed last summer as soon as possible.

The area of drainage be enlarged; requesting a conference in the matter of expenditures in that district; calling attention to the condition of the lower end of Catharine street, and asking that the thoroughfare be opened to its proper width.

Other requests embodied in a memorial asked for the removal of obstructions on Russell street, enabling owners to connect with street lines.

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Peace May Be Just Ahead

Emperor's Advisers Greatly Encouraged at Prospects of Pacific Proposals.

Ministers of War and the Navy Only Two Set Against the Negotiations.

The Indications Are That Affairs Are Shaping For Ending of War.

S. T. PETERSBURG, March 23.—(12:35 a. m.)—The party within the government which is urging the Emperor to indicate to the Japanese minister his willingness to end the war if a reasonable basis can be reached, has been greatly encouraged by the prospects of peace proposals.

The subject has occupied much of the attention of the conference at Tsarsko-Selo. Certain Grand Dukes, supported by General Sakharoff, the minister of war, and Admiral Vellon, the head of the admiralty, and what is known as the "peace party," are strongly in favor of the idea of peace under present circumstances, but, with the exception of war and marine, the Emperor's ministers are not so solidly in favor of this course, and the convincing arguments they offer are telling.

French intimations on the same lines are being supported by German opinion.

The rumor noted by the Associated Press, that Emperor William had tendered his good offices, now seems to be confirmed. The Associated Press reports that the Emperor, now, that the war decision to approach Japan, it will be through France, and that negotiations will be conducted through the Japanese minister, Mr. De-tono, the Japanese minister at Paris, or Mr. Harmand, the French minister at Tokyo.

The Japanese government now feels certain that Japan will not make the first move, and that the Emperor's position until overtures are made authoritatively in the Russian Emperor's name, on the ground that the Emperor is representing Russia. It is quite possible that Japan's attitude in this regard has been exposed through unofficial channels.

According to the Associated Press, it will be remembered, took the same position when Herr Detting, the German commissioner of customs at the port of Yokohama, was asked to suggest to obtain Japan's terms for ending the China-Japanese war, declining to do so, and the Emperor's position, supported by General John W. Foster, went to Tokyo followed with full powers.

Furthermore, in view of the possibility that no basis of agreement would result even should the Emperor now approach Japan with pacific proposals, the Japanese are likely to believe that hostilities would continue, following the precedent of the China-Japanese war, until negotiations ended.

The Chinese-Japanese war, which began in December and peace was concluded in the following April, meanwhile the Japanese made a winter campaign in Manchuria.

The conferences concerning the question whether Russia should now agree, finally, that preparations will be made to continue the war shall not be relaxed, and incidentally to reject humiliating terms.

Terms on Side Issues. It is pointed out, however, that after Japan seriously desires ending peace on collateral questions, Russia might be ready to accept a peace proposal. For instance, in lieu of direct indemnity, she might turn over to Japan the proceeds of the sale of all the rights in the western Amur region, including Dalny, and the Chinese Eastern railway, and liberally pay for the maintenance of the railway.

While refusing to cede Saghalin, might grant rights to the fisheries there, or even relinquish all the seal fisheries west of the island.

It is possible also that satisfactory arrangements might be made regarding Russian naval strength in the eastern waters for period of years.

RESPIRE FROM PURSUIT. Japanese Grow Weary of Chasing Elusive Russians.

Gunsburg Pass, March 22.—The Japanese are weary of chasing the Russians on a temporary respite from pursuit, probably to reform their forces, as they did after the pursuit of the Russians north of the Amur. The Russian front is now southeast by northwest, with the Russian right much nearer the railway than the Japanese.

It is possible also that satisfactory arrangements might be made regarding Russian naval strength in the eastern waters for period of years.

SIX MINERS KILLED. Princeton, Ind., March 22.—Six miners were killed and four injured, two fatally, by an explosion in the mine of the Adams shaft at Princeton, today.

Within a short time fifty women, relatives of the miners, surrounded the shaft and anxiously awaited each ascent to the surface. The miners worked heroically, and several were overcome by the foul air which filled the mine. The explosion hurried supporting timbers in every direction. In consequence the fat roof gave way in many places, and the miners were in constant danger from this source.

BROCKTON FIRE VICTIMS. Brockton, Mass., March 22.—City Marshal Boyde, after examination of the payroll of the Brockton shoe factory today estimated the number killed by Monday's explosion, and fire at between 70 and 75.

MORE TROOPS FOR ARABIA.

Turkish Government Has More Men, but Lack Transports.

Constantinople, March 22.—The minister of war has been ordered to hold further battalions in readiness for service in Yemen province, Arabia, but in the meantime the government is unable to obtain ships to transport the soldiers already to be sent.

GRANDMOTHER LANGTRY. The Jersey Lily Receives a Reminder of the Flight of Time.

New York, March 22.—A London despatch to the American says: Mrs. Lily Langtry is now a grandmother. A son was born today (Tuesday) to her daughter, Mrs. Ian Malcolm, wife of a well-known member of parliament from Scotland.

ROTEN INVESTMENTS. Philadelphia Concerns Owning a Million and No Assets.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 22.—Judge Holland, in the United States District Court today, appointed J. Hecker MacNeil, receiver for the Provident Investment Company. The company made an assignment yesterday with estimated liabilities of nearly a million dollars with practically no assets.

FIERCE KENTUCKY FEUDS. Lexington, Ky., March 22.—A plot to shoot down five men in the Bluebird court house during one of the feud murder trials there was brought out today at the hearing of a motion to admit to bail Sheriff Ed Callahan and the Hargises, one of whom is judge and another a state senator.

ABANDONED MINE CAVES IN. Pennsylvania Mining Town Alarmed at Destruction Wrought.

Irwin, Pa., March 22.—A cave-in over an abandoned mine is causing much damage at Claridge, a mining town near here. A church and three stores, with their contents, have been wrecked, while two other houses are gradually sinking into the mine, and their occupants have been forced to vacate. Damage to other buildings is feared.

THE RETREATING RUSSIANS. Rearguard Reaches Point Twenty Miles North of Tie Pass.

Tokio, March 22.—It is reported that the rearguard of the retreating Russians was 20 miles north of Karyuan (about 20 miles north of "The Pass") yesterday. The Russians are retreating along the three main roadways, their destinations being Kirin and Changchun.

SOLVE STANFORD MYSTERY. Frisco Police Hint at Speedy Unraveling of Great Crime.

San Francisco, March 22.—The call says today: It is reported at police headquarters that the mystery surrounding the "presence of strychnine poisoning in the mineral water which the student drank on the evening of January 14 at her California home will have been solved and possibly one or two arrests made.

A FRENCHMAN'S SUICIDE. Former Minister Takes His Own Life Under Peculiar Circumstances.

Paris, March 22.—(2:30 p. m.)—Antonin Frost, minister of fine arts in the Garbottier cabinet, died today as the result of two shots in the head, self-inflicted. He had long been a victim of a mental ailment, which is believed to have been intensified recently by difficulties with Resaitta Mual, the celebrated dancer of the opera, with whom he was closely intimate. He died at his apartments Monday evening. The tragedy followed shortly after her departure.

NEW ISLAND FOR JAPAN. Tokio Despatch Reports Emergence of Isle From the Sea.

New York, March 22.—A Tokio despatch to the Times says: A new island, 4,800 yards in circumference, has emerged from the sea three leagues south of Japan, in the Riu Kiu archipelago, between Japan and Formosa. The first indications were observed last November 14, when frequent detonations were heard, lasting till November 23. On the latter date dense smoke began to rise and continued till December 1, when the island was visible. The island was visited on February 1 by inhabitants of Iwojima, who found the surface covered with volcanic ash. The island was surrounded by a belt of sand and there was a boiling lake near the northern extremity.

PENDRAY-NORRIS. Marriage of Popular Native Son and Daughter Solemnized Yesterday.

The wedding of Mr. Ernest C. Pendray, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pendray of Belleville street, and Miss Lottie Louise Norris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Norris, of Gorge road, was solemnized at the residence of the bride's parents Wednesday afternoon, Rev. G. K. B. Adams, of the Metropolitan church, officiating. Miss Anna McQuade was maid of honor, being handsomely gowned in embroidered chiffon over taffeta silk and carrying a lovely bouquet of white and pink carnations. Miss Mabel Clark, the bridesmaid, wore a beautiful gown of crepe de chine and also carried a showery bouquet of carnations—pink and white. The bride's gown was of silk and tulle over taffeta silk and chiffon, while the bridegroom wore a suit of white and delicate ferns. The groom's gift to the bride was a diamond sunburst, and his wedding day souvenirs to the bridesmaids were pearl brooches. Mr. and Mrs. Pendray were the recipients of a large number of handsome and admirably chosen presents, including a beautiful tea service presented by the employees of the soap and paint factories—accompanied by the congratulations and best wishes of a large circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Pendray will spend their honeymoon in southern California, and are expected to be absent from four to six weeks. Upon their return they will take up their residence on Pandora street. Mr. and Mrs. Pendray, who are both native Victorians, have the hearty best wishes of a very large circle of friends.

GOOD IDEA. Toronto News.

It is a compromise is really wanted between the advocates and the opponents of the proposed schools, what could be better than to allow the new provinces to settle the question for themselves.

RETURN FROM ANTARCTIC.

French Expedition Reaches Buenos Ayres From Southern Seas.

New York, March 22.—A Buenos Ayres despatch to the Herald says: The French Antarctic expedition, under Dr. Charcot, arrived in port this afternoon (Tuesday) and was met by French associations with flags and bands, a representative of the minister of marine and many officers of the Argentine navy. The party went first to the Club Francese, where they were welcomed by the president of the club and the French charge d'affaires, Dr. Charcot replying, said the dangers of an Antarctic expedition were not so commonly believed by people in the streets of Paris.

SECRET OF JAPANESE SUCCESS. Baron Hayashi Gives Honor to Whom Honor is Due.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, March 22.—The new Japanese battleship Kashima was launched today at the Bewick shipyard of the Armstrong company, in the presence of Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to Great Britain.

The Kashima's main battery will consist of four 12 inch guns, and twelve 6 inch guns. She is of 13,460 tons. A sister ship is being built at Barrow-in-Furness.

Madame Arakawa, wife of the Japanese consul-general at London, touched the button which released the ship from the stocks.

At the luncheon after the launching, Sir Andrew Noble, chairman of the Armstrong Co., proposed the toast, "The Japanese Emperor." He said all the European nations, including Great Britain, might learn a lesson from Japan.

Their course prior to the outbreak of the war and their splendid strategy and bravery when compelled to strike, to either with the consistently dignified attitude of the government, made them an example for all nations.

Minister Hayashi, who responded, said the Japanese success, which was largely due to the fact that more than a dozen of their great warships were built in England. He was sorry the Kashima could not take part in the war, but the war must end some time, and thereafter the powerful vessel would be used to maintain peace in the Far East.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA AT LISBON. Royal Yacht Reaches Portuguese Capital Safely.

Lisbon, March 22.—The British royal yacht Victoria and Albert, with Queen Alexandra and party on board, arrived here today.

Lisbon, March 22.—Queen Alexandra of Great Britain today was given a hearty welcome to Portugal. The harbor was crowded with gaily decorated steamers and yachts, and the British royal yacht ascended the river amid volleys of salutes from the great gun batteries, pulled by boatmen in medieval costumes of scarlet and gold, took King Charles, his suite and ministers to meet the royal guest. A beautiful pavilion had been erected on the quay for the reception formalities. After the Queen Alexandra at the steps of the quay, an imposing procession of state carriages and officials took the guest and her suite to the palace amid the rousing cheers of the people.

The route of the procession was gay with flags and streamers, and about 10,000 people lined the route. The Queen Alexandra and other members of the party were distributed to the palace and the British colors tied to their necks were liberated and mingled in the shower of flowers.

It is reported that the storm which compelled the British royal yacht to put in at Vigo for shelter was so violent as to cause the destruction of the archipelago, owing to weakness, was completely unnerved. The heavy seas caused the yacht to be closely beset. She slept from noon Monday till Tuesday morning. Princess Victoria is now recovered.

IMPATIENT FOR RESOLVES. Delay in Promised Changes Having Bad Effect in Russia.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—The impatience at the delay in the realization of the promised reforms, having an exceedingly bad effect. The various commissions are making little progress. It is now announced that the press commission will not meet until the fall, and that M. Bouillon's rescript commission is not even organized, although it was announced that something would be done at the meeting of the committee of ministers Friday. The liberals are acting in unison, and the rescript commission of the commission shall be representative of the zemstvos, doumas and progressive bodies, and these demands to being announced at the meeting of resolutions all over the empire.

The abandonment of the compulsory unions was a great disappointment to the schools of Poland, one of the main features of the government's Polish policy of the last thirty years, and the substitution of a new policy was recommended at a special meeting of the committee of ministers yesterday, a special meeting of the committee of ministers, favoring discontinuance of the attempt to Russify Poland by this method.