[From The Daily Colonist, April 2.]

THE RAILWAY POLICY.

Legislature Asked for $2,500,000 to Aid in the Construction of Railways.

Subsidies Are Hedged Around With Safeguards Necessary in the Public Interest.

The following is the full text of the bill which Premier Turner introduced yesterday in the legislature providing for assistance to railways:

An act to authorize a loan of two million five hundred thousand dollars for the purpose of aiding the construction of railways and other public works.

Whereas the existence of extraordinary mineral wealth has been substantiated in many parts of the province, and there are valid reasons for believing that there are numerous districts in the province as yet unprospected, which will also prove rich in mineral wealth, and that an extensive immigration and increase of population may be anticipated if means of communication are afforded by railways, roads and other works for developing the natural wealth which exists both in minerals, timber and farming land.

And whereas it is expedient that the trade and commerce of British Columbia accompanying such development and increase in population should, as far as possible, be retained in the Dominion of Canada, which will be best effected by the early construction of such railways, roads and public works.

And whereas the addition of every unit of population will give an increase of revenue, both to the Dominion and Provincial governments, but in a proportion of approximately two to one in favor of the Dominion as compared with the province, while the charges on the province for administration and collection resulting from such increase in population are greater than those upon the Dominion, and the advantages to be reaped from the execution of such works would therefore constitute a strong claim upon the Dominion for assistance therein.

And whereas it is expedient that this legislature should make immediate and adequate provision for subsidising railways of the class above mentioned, and with that end a loan be authorized:

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the legislative assembly of the province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:

1. This act may be cited as the "British Columbia Public Works Loan Act, 1897."

LOAN.

2. The Lieutenant Governor in council may (in addition to all other moneys authorized to be raised or borrowed by any other act of the province) borrow or raise from time to time, in such amounts, in such manner, and at such times as may be deemed expedient, any sum of money not exceeding two and one-half million dollars by the sale of debentures, or by the issue and sale of "British Columbia stock" under the provisions of the "Inscribed Stock Act, 1891," or partly in one way and partly in another, or otherwise.

3. All moneys borrowed or raised pursuant to this act shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding three and a half per cent. per annum, to be fixed at the time of sale, and to be paid half-yearly, and shall be repayable at a date to be fixed at the time of sale, not being less than twenty-five nor more than fifty years after the time of sale. Both principal and interest shall be payable in London, England.

4. It shall be lawful for the Lieutenant-Governor in council to appoint the Minister of Finance, or other person or persons from time to time, the agent of the government for the purpose of negotiating any such loan, and the minister or other duly appointed agent may arrange all details and do, transact, and execute all such deeds, matters, and things as may be requisite during the conduct of negotiations, or for the purpose of placing the loan.

5. The Minister of Finance shall, and is hereby required to, in each and every half year, from the first raising of any sums of money under authority hereof, until the whole amount so raised and all interest thereon shall have been duly paid, set apart out of the consolidated revenue of the province such sums as shall suffice to pay the interest upon all moneys which shall then bear interest, and shall apply such sum in payment of such interest aforesaid.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may from time to time, by order in council, to be made before the raising of any sum of money under authority hereof which may be named in any such order in council, provide for the repayment of such money by authorizing and directing the Minister of Finance to appropriate yearly such sums of money out of the general revenue of the province as may be named in any such order in council, and as may be deemed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council to be necessary for the creation and maintenance of a sinking fund for the final payment of such stock, and may by the same order in council make such provisions as may be deemed requisite for the investment from time to time of the amount of any sinking fund, and the accumulation thereof, and for the release of any surplus over and above what may be necessary, with accumulations, to repay any loan at maturity.

7. All moneys raised under this act shall be paid in such manner as the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council shall prescribe to the Minister of Finance, and shall by him be placed to the credit of an account to be called the "British Columbia Public Works Loan Act, 1897, Account," to be applied, first in payment of discount, commission, brokerage, and other expenses of the loan, and the balance to be applied to the purposes and in the manner hereinafter provided; and all moneys to be raised under this act shall be accounted for in the same manner as if they formed part of the current revenue of the province.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

8. There is hereby granted for and in aid of the construction of the following railways, and to be paid out of the moneys raised under this act, a sum not exceeding four thousand dollars for each mile of railway, of the uniform gauge of four feet eight and one-half inches, viz.:

(a.) For a railway from Penticton to the Boundary Creek district, approximately one hundred miles in length;

(b.) For a railway from Bute Inlet to Quesnelle, approximately two hundred and thirty miles.

(c.) For a railway from the Coast to Chilliwack, approximately sixty miles:

9. The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may enter into all agreements with any company or companies formed for the purpose of constructing any railway, to which a subsidy is hereby attached, which may be necessary or convenient for the due construction and operation of such railways, which agreements shall, in every instance, in addition to other matters therein provided for, contain the following provisions, viz.:

(1.) That unless work is commenced on the railway within two years from the passage of this act, and is duly and diligently prosecuted to the satisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, all right and claim to the aforesaid subsidy granted by this act may be cancelled and forfeited:

(2.) That the aforesaid subsidy shall not be payable until the railway is completed and in running order, to the satisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, nor until security or guarantees, satisfactory to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, is or are given for the continuous maintenance and operation of the railway, and no subsidy shall be payable or paid until after such completion and the giving of such security or guarantees.

10. No subsidy shall be granted to a company for the construction of any line of railway in respect of which a land subsidy has heretofore been granted by the legislature, except on condition that the company in receipt thereof shall undertake to throw open all the lands to be received by it under its subsidy act to public purchase on the same terms and conditions as crown lands can at the time of the passage of this act be acquired, and an agreement binding on the company in this respect, and adequate regulations for carrying out the same shall be executed and promulgated by the company and approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council before the payment of any subsidy out of the moneys raised hereunder:

(a) It shall be lawful for the company to reserve and except, out of any such agreement, all lands which may be designed by the company and approved of by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and laid out and registered as townsites.

11. The plans, specifications and conditions of any proposed contract for the construction of the railway shall be subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and the contracts shall be submitted to public tender and competition under such conditions as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall approve, and no contract shall be awarded, or work or materials thereunder accepted, without the like approval.

12. No company in recipt of a subsidy under this act shall be entitled to collect tolls or charges for the carriage of freight or passengers, unless the tariff fixing the rates thereof has been submitted to and approved by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and such tariff shall be in force for the period fixed by the order in council approving the same, and all alterations or additions shall be similarly approved, and at or before the conclusion of such period the same shall be revised and again approved for a further period, and so on from time to time.

13. The terms of the "British Columbia Railway Act," and amending acts, except as modified by the provincial charter of the company, shall apply to all railways subsidized under this act.

14. No subsidy shall be paid before the 1st day of July, 1899.

PUBLIC WORKS.

15. Any balance of the moneys raised hereunder not required for the payment of the railway subsidies authorized hereby shall be appropriated in such amounts and in such manner as the legislature may from time to time authorize and direct, towards the construction of roads and public means of communication and transport, and of other public works.

JAMES MURRAY DEAD.

He Worked the Old "Colonist" Hand-Press in the Early Days.

Genial old Jas. Murray, after passing the allotted three-score-and-ten by five years more, died at the St. Joseph's hospital yesterday. For sometime past Mr. Murray had been in feeble health and in the care of the Sisters of St. Ann.

It was in the year 1858 that Mr. Murray landed in Victoria, and early the following year joined the then diminutive staff of the Colonist as pressman, a position which he filled with a faithfulness that won for him the respect and confidence of the successive owners of this paper. Rain or shine, "Murray" was always at his post, and during all the period of his engagement, which lasted until about ten years ago, nothing but severe illness ever caused him to miss a day, and even these off days were so rare as to be now entirely forgotten. Mr. Murray was a man of great learning and was a deep thinker. He would stop his work to quote the latin authors with a facility that showed a perfect familiarity with them. In fact, Mr. Murray had a classical education, of which any professional man might well be proud. He was born in Armagh county seventy-five years ago, and leaves a widow, two sons—Henry and Francis R., at present residing here; and one daughter, Mrs. M. C. Brown.

The funeral will take place at 9:30 on Saturday morning from the residence of his son, F. R. Murray, 137 Vancouver street, and later from the Roman Catholic cathedral.

Very impressive services were held early yesterday morning at Christ Church cathedral in memory of the late Arthur Scroggs, who lost his life in the disaster to the steamer Spinster last week. The Bishop of Columbia, assisted by the Rev. Canon Beanlands and the Rev. Haslam, administered holy communion to the bereaved family and friends of the deceased, after which portions of the ritual for the dead were read. The remains, accompanied by Mrs. Scroggs, will be taken to the family vault in England for interment. At the rehearsal of "Farmer's Festival Mass," at Pioneer hall, on Tuesday evening last, Mr. F. Victor Austin, the conductor, referred in feeling terms to the loss sustained by the musical world of Victoria in the death of Mr. Arthur Scroggs, who was a member of the Farmer's Mass orchestra, and was, Mr. Austin said, always ready to assist in every effort made to benefit a local charity.

SMELTER AND FILTERS

Will Be Discussed at the City Council Meeting to Be Held To-Night.

Mr. Jorgensen Says Mr. Herring's Report Was Based on Incorrect Information.

Two very important matters will occupy the attention of the city council at a special conclave called by the Mayor for 8 o'clock this evening. The first business that will be taken up is the letter of Mr. William Selover, submitting a proposition to construct a smelter in or near Victoria capable of treating 400 tons of ore a day in exchange for a subsidy of $150,000 in cash. As pointed out by the Mayor at the last council meeting, the hands of the council are tied, it being necessary, first of all, that a petition from the ratepayers should be handed in asking that a by-law to authorize the undertaking be submitted to the ratepayers. The aldermanic board, will, however, look into the proposition and, after weighing the matter, decide if it is advisable to proceed further in the matter.

The next matter which the meeting will consider will be a letter from Mr. G. E. Jorgensen, which is given below and which would go to show that a settling is needed in the matter of the waterworks improvement scheme in more places than at the filter beds.

His Worship the Mayor.

I have read in the daily papers the report on the Beaver Lake waterworks improvements by Rudolph Herring, Esq., C.E. By carefully following the arguments and conclusions contained therein I have formed the opinion that Mr. Herring could not have been in possession of a full knowledge of all the facts and circumstances bearing on the case; and as some of the expert's principal contentions appear to me to be based upon such incomplete information, I have the honor to request your worship to afford me an opportunity of meeting your honorable board for the purpose of explaining some of the matters referred to in the report, which if allowed to stand undisputed may furnish cause for grave apprehension and needless expenditure.

(Signed) G. E. Jorgensen.

HEARD IN THE HOTELS.

Chas. Allmen, a mining engineer staying at the Dominion, speaking of mines and mining yesterday explained that he had been advised by Victoria people to visit the island with the idea of taking a look at some of the new fields of operation.

"I have been a miner for the last thirty years," he said, "and for seven of these was employed in the Comstock mines, in positions all the way from handling the pick up to assayer. I have lately been in the Kootenay country where I superintended the erection of the O.K. mill. I was greatly struck at the cheapness with which the mines in the Slocan are put on a paying basis—it is emphatically a poor man's camp."

John Stevenson, sheriff of Cariboo, is at the Oriental. "I have been in Cariboo for almost thirty-three years," said Mr. Stevenson last evening, "and it is six years since I was last in Victoria. This last winter, strange to say, has been, so far as Barkerville is concerned, an unusually mild one, less snow having fallen this season and the mercury having ranged higher than for some years past, but the lower part of the district about Clinton and Lillooet seems to have had our usual run of winter weather, a thing which they are not at all accustomed to. As a consequence the ranchers were not prepared for it and, as you know, their cattle are dying in droves. Some have estimated the ultimate loss at fifty per cent., but I cannot see how they are going to save more than a few head. One concern alone will be involved to the extent of about $75,000; but it is the small ranchers that will feel the loss most severely, and it will in many cases mean utter ruin. Last year was a particularly bright one for Cariboo, and from all indications the coming season will be a still better one, as the hydraulic mines are now getting on a sound basis.

Henry Croft arrived home yesterday from Rossland via Portland which latter place was visited with the object of interesting capital from the Webfoot State in the golden mining schemes of this province.

"During my trip to the Kootenay," said Mr. Croft, "I have visited the Slocan, the Salmon River, the Wild Horse and other points of the mining districts—in many cases on snow shoes and I found everything looking most promising. Everything seems to point to the Slocan as the section which will attract the most investors for some time to come. The reason is that whereas Rossland is a permanent mining camp of recognized richness, this very fact prevents a new arrival from being able to take hold except at very high figures, and besides the cheapness with which a prospect in the Slocan can be placed on a paying basis makes it an ideal field for operators of limited means. The Payne mine at Sandon is now turning out 1,000 tons of ore a month, which will average about $100 a ton, and to develop a mine sufficient to start shipping ore does not as a rule cost more than a few thousand dollars."

Triumph lodge, I.O.G.T., gave an entertainment in the Blue Ribbon hall, Esquimalt, last evening. A lengthy programme was rendered, one of the enjoyable features of which was the band of H.M.S. Comus. Dr. Lewis Hall presided by request.

Robert White, for many years a faithful and trusted manager of Mr. W. P. Sayward's logging interests in various camps, died at his residence, No. 120 Richardson street, yesterday. The deceased was a native of Ireland, was 68 years of age, and leaves a widow, but no family. His funeral will take place from the family residence on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, and half an hour later from the Roman Catholic cathedral.

SILICIOUS GOLD ORES.

Extraordinary Results of the Tests Lately Made of Low Grade Gold Ores.

It Means a Tremendous Impetus to the Mining Industry of British Columbia.

Captain Hall, superintendent of the Le Roi mine, has been making numerous tests of the low-grade silicious ores of that mine to determine whether a saving could be effected by milling and concentrating. He had 51 tons of $8 ore run through the O. K. mill and half the gold contained in this ore was saved upon the plates. In addition to this, the concentrates suffice to pay all the expenses of milling and smelting, "leaving," to use the words of Captain Hall, "the gold saved upon the plates a clear profit." This astonishing result is of colossal import to the mining industry of British Columbia. From the Columbia river to the western confines of Vancouver island from the southern limits of the Province to the Alaskan boundary, British Columbia mountains are seamed with countless ledges of pyritic ore. This pyritic ore is mixture of copper and of iron in combination with sulphur. With this is silica in greater or lesser quantities and apparently inversely proportioned to the amount of iron, Gold has always been found in pyrites, and previous to the discoveries in California and Australia was the chief source of supply, but gold has never before been found in such quantities in pyritic ore as it has been in this province. It has been a mooted question whether the gold was held in the silica or in the iron sulphide, but the results of Captain Hall's experiments seem to show that the gold has more affinity to the quartz or silica than to the sulphides. The old saw about "quartz being the womb of gold" is thus strangely confirmed.

Silicious gold bearing pyritic ore that averages $6 to the ton can now be mined, milled, concentrated and smelted at a profit. This is the great fact adduced from tests made by Mr. William Rust, of Tacoma, Captain Hall, of Rossland, and other well known mining and smelting men. It is impossible to estimate the stupendous magnitude of this discovery. Trail Creek from the O. K. mountain to the Columbia river is cut by a dozen or more parallel ledges containing sulphide ore and quartz bearing gold and silver. Some of this is high grade, but by farthe greater part of it is low grade, averaging $10 in gold to the ton.

With the new process there is a profit of $4 a ton in every ton of this ore. In order to achieve that, however, concentrators will have to be built, and this will entail a vast expenditure in labor and machinery. Capital must therefore flow still more into Trail Creek to wrest the gold embedded in her mountains, and with that capital a mining industry will be created there that will surpass that of any gold-bearing district yet discovered. In a dozen years Rossland should surpass Johannesburg as a wealth producer, and it certainly is not too much to say that in this province there will yet be found many Rosslands.

THE CITY.

The case of Richards v. Price, involving the ownership of the Metchosin copper mine, occupied the attention of the County court all day yesterday, and judgment was reserved for two weeks.

The inland revenue returns of the port of Victoria for the month of March are as follows: Spirits, $18,476.11; malt, $1,645.92; tobacco, $5,854.99; cigars, $783.24; methylated spirits, $59.98; and inspection petroleum, $24.70; total, $26,844.94.

Annie, the eight-year-old daughter of William and Ann Robertson, of Salt Spring Island, was brought in by the Sidney train yesterday morning for medical treatment. A few hours after reaching the house of a friend the little sufferer passed away. It is probable that an inquest may be necessary.

At the regular monthly business meeting of the Congregational church held last evening secretary, Mr. William Scowcroft, on behalf of the donor, Alfred Topp, Esq., J. P., of Farnworth, Bolton, England, presented the church with a very fine communion service. The gift is greatly appreciated, coming from one so far away, and an official acknowledgement of the same was ordered to be prepared by the church secretary.

The declared exports from the consular district of Victoria to the United States during the quarter ended March 31st were: Coal tar, $1,626.89; copper and gold ore, $2,855; furs, hides and skins, $21,070.64; gold bullion, $47,311.82; goods in transit, $6,381.03; liquors, $5,846.10; returned American goods, $2,192.55; tin plates, $3,152.50; wool, $1,607.50; yellow metal, $275.06; miscellaneous merchandige, $488.80; total, $92,807.89; total for same quarter in 1896, $100,677.09; decrease, $7,869.20.

In the police court yesterday the Chinaman who was brought down on the Danube in charge of the provincial police was arraigned on the charge of attempting suicide in this city about six weeks ago. He pleaded guilty and was sent up for trial. An Indian named Harry of the Saanich tribe, who with culpable negligence was found with two bottles of square face in his pockets instead of in his interior economy, was given the usual option of $25 or one month in jail.

Rev. Solomon Cleaver, of the Metropolitan Methodist church, and Rev. Mr. McCrossan, who has for the past year or so had charge of the James Bay Methodist church, leave Victoria in June next. Mr. Cleaver goes to Winnipeg to take charge of Grace church, and his successor here will be Rev. Mr. Spears, the present pastor of Broadview Tabernacle, Toronto. Rev. Mr. Swinerton, a '96 graduate of Victoria University, succeeds Rev. Mr. McCrossan. The latter has no idea yet where he will be placed, his new appointment being dependent on the decision of the June conference at Winnipeg, which he attends.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Third Session of the Seventh Parliament.

THIRTY-SIXTH DAY.

Thursday, April 1, 1897.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock.

Prayers by Rev. W. D. Barber.

Hon. Mr. Martin presented the Surveyor-General's annual report.

Mr. Bryden presented a petition from a number of anglers asking that the trout-fishing season be extended to November 15.

Mr. Booth, as chairman of the private bills committee, reported that with reference to the petition of H. C. Beeton, A. Drucker, C. H. Wilkinson and E. E. Billinghurst, dated March 26, the committee were of opinion that owing to the great importance to the province of the projected railway from the head of Lynn canal to the boundary, leave should be granted to above named to present a petition for a bill incorporating them as a public company for the purpose mentioned notwithstanding that the time limited for receiving petitions had expired. The committee recommended, that the standing orders be suspended accordingly.

Mr. Booth also presented a report from the same committee recommending that as the Water bill had not yet been passed, the time limited for the reception of reports should be extended for two weeks from April 3 and that the rules be suspended accordingly.

Mr. Rithet presented the third report of the public accounts committee.

Hon. Mr. Turner presented a message from the Lieutenant Governor transmitting a bill authorizing a loan of $2,500,000 to aid in constructing railways and other public works. After the formal motion of considering the message in committee the bill was read a first time.

Mr. Semlin asked for an explanation of the bill.

Hon. Premier Turner said the more satisfactory course would be to have the bill distributed so that members could study its provisions. He felt sure honorable members on both sides of the house would heartily endorse the measure.

Hon. Finance Minister Turner, in moving the usual motion for the house to go into committee of supply, said:

"Mr. Speaker: I have the honor, for the tenth year in succession, to make the preliminary motion for Committee of Supply. On the last occasion, which was in March 1896, and also in 1895, I had a far more difficult task than I have to-day, as there had then to be faced the hard fact that the revenue, to say the least, was not very progressive; and though there were indications last year that matters were changing in the province and that the revenue would be improving, still, sir, there was an element of uncertainty about it that was likely, if not very carefully investigated, to promote pessimistic ideas. It evidently had that effect on the gentlemen who composed Her Majesty's loyal opposition, for if you turn to their speeches you will find that they prophesied dire disaster. Owing to their distorted view of the situation, they convinced themselves that by the 30th June, 1896, the government would not only have expended all the revenue but, in addition, all the balance of the loan, and have gone into debt besides to some hundreds of thousands of dollars. (Cheers.)

"Well, sir, it must be most gratifying to them as well as to the government to find on looking at the accounts that it is not half so bad after all; that instead of the province being hard up on the 30th June last, it had a good round sum to begin the current year with, and further, that it is certain now that a large amount will still stand to the good on the 30th June next to begin the next financial year with. (Cheers.) I have usually, sir, at this point, reviewed the public accounts for the last financial year which are annually presented, but to-day I think it is hardly necessary to do so at any length. They show that the revenue was $989,765, or some $46,124 less than the estimate made in January, 1895. The shortage was much more than accounted for by the fact that the land sales were $116,000 less than estimated. This is largely owing to arrears of long standing not having been got in as was hoped. The government did not wish to press unduly those who were in arrears. Other lines of revenue, however, notably mining receipts, increased so much that the total result is as just stated, only some $46,000 less than the estimates. On the other side of the account, the actual expenditure was $1,701,309. This is apparently $385,000 over the amount voted by the house, but such is not really the case. The expenditure then provided for by vote was $1,315,837, the difference had been previously provided for by statute, it being made up of the payment on parliament buildings' account, and the first year's interest and sinking fund on the 1895 loan. In addition the sum of $48,825 was expended on roads, streets and bridges for urgent works, as provided by supplementary estimates passed last year. On the other hand the expenditure in some lines was considerably less than the sum voted. Thus for civil government salaries the expenditure was less than the sum voted by $5,000; there was $6,000 less paid for administration of justice salaries, and about $9,000 less for administration of justice than the vote provided. There were some other minor differences. These are all clearly set forth in the public accounts.

"Turning now, sir, to the current year from 30th June, 1896, to the 30th June next, the revenue was estimated to amount to $1,163,798. I may confidently and safely say that it will amount to considerably more. This is pretty clearly shown by the account already laid before the house of the revenue for the first six months up to the 31st December last. This amounts to $509,439, and in that sum there appears only $33,327 paid in for taxes for the well known reason that taxes are not paid until June in each year. The amount of these to collect—even if only the same as paid in last year—will be $252,000, thus producing a total of $1,278,878. No doubt however some deductions will have to be made from this on account of certain lines of revenue such as timber leases, timber royalty, mining receipts and Chinese restriction tax which may probably not realize so much in the current half year as in the last half year referred to in the statement. But after all allowances are made, it is evident that on the 30th June next there will be approximately in the neighborhood of $280,000 on hand to commence the next year with, and probably a good deal more if no large addition to expenditure has subsequently to be made. (Cheers.) I said last year that there would be about $90,000 to our credit on the 30th June next, but as I have already explained, the amount will be nearer $280,000. This apparent discrepancy arises from the change in the act in reference to the sinking fund, which enabled the trustees to transfer to the consolidated revenue of the province the sum of $166,313 that appertained to the portion of the 1877 and 1887 loans paid off by conversion into 3 per cents, this new loan of course having its own sinking fund provided. On the other side of the account for this current year the estimate for expenditure is $1,432,798. The expenditure for the half year to December 31 was $823,503, and if the expenditure for the next half year amounts to the same it will bring the total to fully $200,000 beyond the vote. I notice that some of the local papers have already seized on this, I suppose in the way that "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread," and have proved to their own satisfaction, but probably not to that of any one else (Hear, hear) that the government has extravagantly expended, without any good cause. This shows either their ignorance or something much worse. They have entirely overlooked the fact, which they certainly should know, that the greater part of the expenditure, especially on public works, is always made in the first half year. They have also eagerly turned to the revenue for the first half year and have decided that it does not come up to half the amount that was estimated for the whole year, therefore the total revenue will be at least $150,000 short. Adding this to over expenditure they make out that by the 30th June next there will be a total shortage of at least $350,000. It is no use trying to convince prejudiced men of this error, so I shall not attempt it; but, as I have already explained, there will evidently be a handsome amount on the right side next June. (Cheers.)

"On turning to the estimates for the year, commencing 1st July next, which we propose to consider in committee, it will be seen, sir, that the revenue is placed at $1,288,039. This, I think, must be admitted to be a very conservative calculation, as it is only $124,000 over the estimates of the previous year. (Hear, hear.) There is, I think, little to call for remark as to how this year's revenue is made up. The different items are partially based on the actual receipts for the past half year, which indicate pretty closely the possibilities. There is $30,000 less allowed for land sales, as it is evident that the present year's amount is not likely to be realized. The mining receipts of all kinds are arrived at by the actual revenue now steadily coming in from those sources, whilst the amount under the head of taxes is the actual sum assessed against property. The minor lines of revenue are several of them of such a nature that no proper estimate can possibly be made of them. I refer to such things as Chinese restriction tax, succession duty, probate fees, reimbursements, etc. Now, taking up the estimated expenditure for the same period, it will be found to amount to $1,566,078. You will notice that the vote for public debt is $9,157 more than last year. This is owing to the fact that nothing was placed in last year's estimates for sinking fund on 1877 loan, as it was not known then whether the amount of sinking fund standing in London to our credit would be transferred. It was considered advisable, however, to make the transfer, as from the working of the original act, even if we let this sum of $166,332 still stand in London, the same amount yearly would have to be remitted for sinking fund as is now shown in the estimates. The vote for civil government salaries is smaller by $25,160, and administration of justice salaries is $21,524 more than this year. This will be referred to again later on.

Mr. Cotton—It is simply book keeping.

Hon. Mr. Turner—Yes. Public institution maintenance is increased and amounts to $48,990. This arises largely from changes in the civil government vote and will be explained later on. Hospitals and charities appear for $1,600 more. The details in estimates will explain this. Administration of justice is $6,700 more. This requires no comment as it is well known that the increase under this head goes on with the growth of the province. The increase of $19,000 for education arises from the same cause. This vote is now $242,111. It is evident that as the province gets more settled, some change in the educational system must be introduced, probably in the direction of establishing school districts and paying a per capita rate or assessing direct for education, but there is a considerable difficulty about this arising from the great and sparsely settled sections of the province. It is impossible to compare our system with that of Ontario, as that province is almost entirely formed into municipalities. I do not know whether education is cheaper there, but I suppose it must be, for the conditions of this country make it impossible to carry on education in districts as in Ontario. I do not think, however, it is higher in proportion. (Hear, hear.) I think that as a whole we have a very admirable system of education, although it is a costly one. There is no other important head of increase excepting that of public works, which stands at $100,000 over last year. Some $50,000 of this arises from new public buildings such as asylum for the insane and new gaols and school houses, and $50,000 for increase on roads. Both of these votes will have some additions in the supplementary estimates. Under miscellaneous the vote is $9,000 over last year, the board of health now amounting to $7,500, an increase of $5,000, and advertising and stationery being $4,000 more.

"Now, sir, I said I would go back to the civil government salaries to explain the position. These, as I just now stated, appear as $25,164 less than in 1896-7. This reduction arises entirely from the re-arrangement of the departments. The salaries of the employes of lunatic asylums and the printing office were formerly under this head. It has been felt for years that these were not correctly stated in our accounts. They are now placed under public institutions where they properly belong. It is evident that a lunatic asylum is a public institution as much as are the hospitals, whilst the printing office is virtually a business concern doing all the work of the government in a most perfect manner. It is, I may say, up to the times, equal, if not superior, to anything in that special line and always to be relied on, and is now almost paying its way. For 1896-7 the expenditure is this department was for salaries $15,612, and for supplies $14,246, or a total of $29,858, and the receipts were $11,190; whilst for the nine months of the present financial