

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

THIRTY-THIRD DAY.

Monday, March 29, 1897.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock.

Prayer by Rev. W. D. Barber.

Mr. Kellein presented a petition from the inhabitants of Trail asking for bridges, roads and other improvements.

Mr. Speaker said the petition was out of order as calling for the expenditure of public funds.

Major Mutter presented the ninth report of the printing committee, recommending the printing of certain papers already presented to the house. Report received.

Hon. Premier Turner rose to a question of privilege. He said: "It is very seldom that I rise to a question of privilege on a personal matter in this house. I think, however, I am called upon to do so at the present time in reference to an item which appears in the Times of Saturday. That item runs as follows: 'Mr. H. C. Beaton was treated rather shabbily by his old partner in the house yesterday.' Mr. Beaton has been shabbily treated in the house, but I have had some strong personal motives for asking the house to refuse the petition. His sense of public duty would never allow him to take such a course. Now, sir, in a few words, that is a very cruel lie, and what I mean by that, sir, is this, that it is evidently produced with a view to injure me personally. It is a false suggestion which is worse than a straightforward lie. It is a great deal more than a suggestion in the mind of gentlemen away from this province of a straightforward treatment of them, and I call that a very cruel lie. (Hear, hear.) I may give in a few words the facts. When I came into the house on Friday the petition had almost been read. I had no idea what the petition was about, but I heard the name of Wilkinson. The Premier then went on to state that he had not the slightest idea that Mr. Beaton's name was on the petition at the time he was objecting to it, and if he had known that his action would have been precisely the same. (Hear, hear.) There was a regulation that bills must be received by a certain time and he considered that if the house had a bill which described their should have the courage of their convictions and carry it out. (Hear, hear.) Several members had complained to him of the time for private bills being continually carried forward. He could quite see that there should be a time fixed for the presentation of private bills, and kept for receiving private bills, and thought that the whole house should join with him in repudiating such a suggestion as that put forward by the private bill. He had tried to burke that special bill. (Hear, hear.) It was under the peculiar circumstances a very cruel thing to say, and he was very intensely. His connection with Mr. Beaton had been a long and a cordial one, and he deeply regretted that a newspaper published lies in reference to him. He did not suppose he had anything to do with the matter. What he believed was that possibly some individual who had been cruelly disappointed of late, and who had been in the habit of being evidently desirous, felt sore and had tried to have a thrust at one whom he thought an opponent by endeavoring to stir up strife between old and tried friends settling the matter. He thought, however, that the Dominion government were going too far in claiming for the Premier to task for trying to place the responsibility for the delay in transacting public business on the shoulders of those presenting petitions. The Speaker pointed out that if the business had been expeditiously conducted the members could have gone home two weeks ago. He pointed out that the legislature of Quebec transacted a business amount of business in six weeks. The Speaker might have gone further. The legislatures of Ontario, Manitoba and Nova Scotia have been in session for weeks ago, although they were not opened until after the opening of the British Columbia legislature. The British Columbia parliament is earning a reputation for the ease with which it can waste time and do nothing."

He did not hear the Speaker say what was here implied to the questioner. He was convinced the statement must be wrong. He only heard the Speaker say that he thought it was an important bill and should pass the house. He knew that the Speaker's dignity, and he felt confident that neither he, nor any other speaker, could ever try to bulldoze the house into passing a bill. (Hear, hear.) He declared that the house could have completed its business a fortnight ago, every gentleman must know that that was absolute nonsense. The Speaker had called up the example of Manitoba. That legislature had passed thirty-six private bills in six weeks. The Speaker said that the remarks must be inaccurate. There was, however, no comparison between the two provinces. British Columbia as compared with Manitoba was a new province, and required a great deal of legislation. There was one public bill (the companies bill), now in the hands of a special committee, which took a vast amount of consideration and discussion. They knew that bills like that could not have been disposed of a fortnight ago. He regretted that the Speaker had dogged into these false statements. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Speaker said he had no reference to Manitoba at all. What he said was that if they had followed the example of Quebec and had night sittings before, there would be no complaints of this kind because they would have finished their business before this.

Dr. Walkem moved for a return of a copy of the list report of the auditor of the books of the land registry office, Victoria.

Mr. McGregor moved and Mr. Huff seconded the following resolution: "That the House do resolve that the Hon. the Lieutenant-Governor, in paying him to lay before the house copies of a resolution passed by the corporation of Nanaimo with reference to the question of the dismissal of J. H. Simpson, police and stipendiary magistrate; of the evidence taken at the police inquiry on the charges laid by Rev. D. A. McRae against the Chief of Police Crossan and Constable Thompson; of the resolution passed by the Nanaimo police commissioners on Feb. 8, 1897, of the complaint of Crossan, Brose, and of W. Ross, of Nanaimo, with reference to the question of the practice of the Small Debt Act, and the answers

from the judge of the Small Debt Court. The resolution carried.

Mr. Helmecken moved and Mr. Braden seconded the following resolution: "Whereas, on the 1st day of April, A.D. 1896, the government of the Dominion of Canada expressed its willingness (without prejudice to its claim to all other reserves in the province of British Columbia, and that the title of the land may be accepted as a reserve for the Songhees Indians in lieu of their present reserve, be conveyed in fee simple to the Dominion government) to assent to the terms of the resolution passed by the legislative assembly of the province of British Columbia on the 28th day of January, 1896, relative to the removal of the Songhees tribe of Indians from the reserve to some suitable locality:

"And whereas, on the 1st day of June, A.D. 1896, the government of the province of British Columbia expressed its willingness to accept the aforesaid proposition of the government of the Dominion of Canada:

"And whereas, by an order-in-council dated the 23rd day of January, A.D. 1897, the government of the Dominion of Canada desires to insert an additional tract of land as a new reserve for the Songhees Indians, and to value such land and the land comprised in the present reserve, assessing the same at a value of \$1,473,832.31, and to make good by the province, either by a money payment to the Dominion government, or by the addition of land to the satisfaction of the superintendent-general of Indian Affairs, in compliance with section 2 of the Indian Act, 1869:

"1. The commissioners to select a tract of land as a new reserve for the Songhees Indians, and to value such land and the land comprised in the present reserve, assessing the same at a value of \$1,473,832.31, and to make good by the province, either by a money payment to the Dominion government, or by the addition of land to the satisfaction of the superintendent-general of Indian Affairs, in compliance with section 2 of the Indian Act, 1869:

"2. Have any lands been reserved from pre-emption under provisions of last paragraph, and if so, when reserved, and description of lands?

"3. Have company made selection of the lands under section 4 of said act?

Hon. Mr. Martin replied as follows: 1. Yes.

2. Yes: 7th May and 6th June, 1896, of Columbia lands was published in the British Columbia Gazette.

3. No.

Dr. Walkem asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:

1. Has any promise been made to the company, or its representative, who are now in the possession of the Pitt River Meadows, for any assistance?

2. If so, what are the particulars of the assistance asked for?

Hon. Mr. Martin said his reply would be that the company had asked for the member might just as well have asked them. He had to inform him that it was not advisable in the public interest to answer these questions at the present time.

The Lunacy Bill was read a third time and passed.

The bill was then read into committee on the Water Bill, Dr. Walkem in the chair. The clause remaining unpassed were those relating to the Pitt River Meadows, for any assistance.

Hon. Mr. Eberts and Mr. Skord had amendments on the paper to clause 147, relating to the rules under municipal corporations. The amendments were not taken up.

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been in any way dependent upon the action of the Indians. In fact, it would be manifestly unfair and unjust to the Indians, and to the people of the province, in view of the fact that the value of those lands as at present stood was handed over to the Indians. The government was bound to be exceedingly obliged to the gentleman for bringing this matter up, and he hoped there would be a unanimous vote, so that the rights of the Dominion government, (Cheers.)

The motion was carried.

Mr. Williams asked the Minister of Finance:

(a) What was the date of the last audit of the books of the Land Registry office, Victoria?

(b) What amount of fees, etc., was then outstanding?

(c) Give names of persons indebted to the Land Registry office, Victoria, as at 1st of January, 1897, and amounts due from each person.

Hon. Mr. Martin replied as follows: (a) No written report of the last audit has been made, the date cannot be referred to. (b) On the 15th February, 1897, the G. P. E. contributed \$4,201.42, which was given at \$4,538.89. (c) Statements with list of names showing amount due on 31st December, 1897, \$3,962.31, payments made on 31st December, 1897, \$4,201.42, have amounted to \$1,473,832.31.

Mr. Williams asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works:

(a) Has the Dominion and Western Railway Company filed with the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works a plan, in compliance with section 2 of the Indian Act, 1869?

(b) Have any lands been reserved from pre-emption under provisions of last paragraph, and if so, when reserved, and description of lands?

(c) Have company made selection of the lands under section 4 of said act?

Hon. Mr. Martin replied as follows: 1. Yes.

2. Yes: 7th May and 6th June, 1896, of Columbia lands was published in the British Columbia Gazette.

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