

COAL-COMBINE PROBING URGED

GOVERNMENT ASKED TO NAME COMMISSION

Vancouver Member as Friendly Critic—Debate on the Address Closes

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 27. The initial stage of the session came to an end this afternoon with the adoption, no one dissenting, of a loyal address to his honor the lieutenant-governor in reply to his speech at the opening of the house. To-morrow the members will proceed to the consideration of the business to be brought before them, so far as it is ready for them.

Five short speeches were delivered to-day by (Conservative members, all of them excellent in manner and, from their point of view, as to matter. The feature of the day was that Dr. McGuire, of Vancouver, who did not hesitate to tell the government which he supports what he thought of their local option policy—or want of policy. He struck a wut from the shoulder in regard to the 6 1/2 per cent. requirement, and left an impression that the local option forces will press for the right of the constituencies which show a majority in favor of having the power to submit local option 1 yr-laws to have what they voted for, irrespective of the aggregate vote.

Two years ago Dr. McGuire called attention to the exorbitant prices charged consumers for coal in this district. The Dominion government was asked to hold an inquiry into the existence or otherwise of a combine. It was pointed out by Mr. Niserv, Mr. Macdonald and other Liberal members, that the matter was one for the house or the provincial government itself to look after, but this view did not prevail and the resolution passed on the last session. Mr. Oliver proposed that this very important subject should be referred to a provincial commission, but the government was still opposed to this and the light-Ottawa policy supported and passed an amendment (again passing the case up to Ottawa. Dr. McGuire appears, however, to have concluded now that the Liberal course was the right one, for this afternoon he advised the government to appoint a commission, especially as they had taken upon themselves recently to name a royal commission to investigate the rates charged for fire insurance.

Another matter on which Dr. McGuire, who has always taken a great interest in educational matters, gave the government some advice, was the cutting out of unnecessary text-books, the avoidance in examination papers of questions which even the teachers could not answer without turning up references, and popularizing the High school curriculum.

The land clearing problem is one which will not down, and Conservative members are equally insistent with Liberals on the government doing something in the premises. Yesterday the member for Cowichan made a strong presentation of the case and today another Island member pressed the arguments home further. It looks as if the government will be compelled by its supporters who know of the difficulties of land clearing at first hand to take some action along lines which Liberals have urged frequently.

J. Pearson Shaw (Kamloops), in continuing the debate on the address, offered the customary congratulations to the speaker and the mover and second of the debate. He excused his taking part in the debate by the fact that he represented one of the largest and most important constituencies in the province. It was a constituency partly rural and partly urban, which had for many years been represented by a gentleman who bore a portfolio in the McRae government. On behalf of the municipality of Salmon Arm he asked assistance for the trunk road running through that district. Kamloops, he predicted, would soon be the railway centre of the province. When the C. N. R. contract came to be dealt with he hoped that instead of the line passing "near Kamloops" it should be made center that city, where ultimately it could join steel with the C. P. R. If not there was a possibility of a rival town growing up on the other side of the river, a thing which would not be good for either.

A model farm in the semi-arid district and experiment in irrigation was asked for by Mr. Shaw. While the Dominion government farm at Agassiz was an excellent institution it was little service to the ranchers and fruit-

growers in the semi-arid area, who had to experiment for themselves at great cost and loss.

Aid for the Tranquil sanatorium was urged by Mr. Shaw, in whose constituency it lies. He pointed out that 34 beds in an institution which was for the care of patients from all parts of the province. A beautiful building had been put up, largely from private subscription, but this was quite bare of furniture and equipment. Any generous aid from the public exchequer would be heartily supported by every member of the house and by the people generally. By well-directed efforts should be possible to free the province of this scourge. He hoped the estimates would show a handsome vote for this most deserving work.

C. E. Tisdall (Vancouver) declared that in view of the large surplus and the healthy state of the province's finances it was not right to husband any large sum at balance for which only three per cent would go. The province would get very much more value by using it in opening up roads, surveys, and matters of that nature. In commencing large expenditures on roads the government was acting wisely and should go on with that work extensively, especially on roads leading from urban centres into the country districts.

He commended the reduction of taxes and on behalf of the commercial community made a distinction between the income which a man worked for and that which he derived from investments. In the imposing of the new tax. In line with tax reduction he advocated the removal of tolls on the New Westminster bridge. For the year ending March 31st, 1909, there had been collected in tolls \$22,864, which maintenance had cost \$2,632.50, so that farmers and others were taxed \$5,432 which they should not have been. The levying of tolls was entirely at variance with the spirit of the age, and in any case artisans should not be taxed for crossing a public bridge. Mr. Tisdall concluded with congratulations to the government for the endorsement of their policy by such a great majority.

Cariboo Claims.

John A. Fraser, one of the members for the historic old constituency of Cariboo, briefly reviewed its close connection with public affairs and business relations throughout the history of the province. One of the richest sections of the province, as it had always been, was on the eve of being developed. The construction of two new transcontinental railways through it could not fail to be of immense importance to the district. There were large areas of land awaiting cheap transportation and vast areas of magnificent timber which would be made available. From Tete Jaune Cache, where the two new transcontinentals lines would enter British Columbia, there would be 1,000 miles of navigation which could be developed.

Mr. Fraser asked for a model farm for the Cariboo valley, the agricultural possibilities of which were immense. While not detracting from the honor due to the members of the Royal Engineers he dwelt on the place which the old Cariboo pioneers should hold in the history of the province, and in the esteem of the people.

Cariboo is as aspirant for the honor of having the university, as better than long history. Mr. Fraser told the House that no better or more appropriate site could be found than Fort George, the oldest town in British Columbia, founded in 1808.

A Candid Friend.

Dr. McGuire (Vancouver), after complimenting the speaker on re-election and acknowledging personal indebtedness to him for courtesies when a new member of the House, and praising the minister of education for the general administration of his department, went on to speak as follows of matters in which he thought improvement was not only possible, but imperative:

"There are too many text-books in the schools. Many might be done away with, such as 'Science of Health.' That is a work which is difficult enough for a first-year medical student to grasp, let alone young children. Then there is the matter of examination papers—questions. 'Who was George Villiers?' What is the sense of asking a child a question such as that? Suppose twenty years' hence you were to ask a pupil who Donald Smith was, how many do you think would know, or older folk either? The question would naturally be worded as to Lord Strathcona. Who was George Villiers? I did not know until I looked it up, and then I found that George Villiers was Duke of Buckingham, and that he lived in the time of James II. 'What is the gender of vixen?' is another recent example. I doubt if many gentlemen here would be any wiser than I was till I refreshed my memory from the dictionary. It is not the province of an examiner to find out what a child does not know, but what it does know. I think we should have in this province an advisory board elected from the teachers of the province, as in other parts of the Dominion. If we had such a body and their advice was taken these faults would be avoided.

"I have a complaint to make also in regard to the High school curriculum. The province of education in these institutions should be to fit young people for their walk in life rather than to graduate five per cent. into the universities. The curriculum of the High schools is largely framed to form the basis for entry to the university. That is not as it should be. The people at large are being taxed for the educational system and we should have a system for the benefit of the ninety-five per cent, instead of five. I know these matters only need to be brought to the attention of the minister, but I am ambitious minister in regard to his department.

The Local Option Vote.

"I want to speak of the plebiscite which was taken in connection with the general election. It was a most foolish thing to do. It was an anomaly to take a vote on whether the people should be allowed to vote on the question of local option or not. There are men in this House who are here by a minority vote of the constituencies which they represent. If you had the same thing in those cases as the government has imposed on the local option people you would have a different representation. The government insisted that local option should not only have a majority of votes as against the other side, but that the number of votes for the academic question of

Education the following set of questions:

1. Is it the intention of the department hereafter to observe the following resolution at the High School entrance examinations: 'That all the questions shall be within the scope of the text-books upon the subject under examination?'
2. Will it be necessary for public schools hereafter to present the drawing work done in their books at school for the present examining at the entrance examinations?
3. Did the superintendent of education explain to the Provincial School Trustees' Convention at Revelstoke medals were given to places that sent up the most pupils at the High School entrance examinations? If not, what explanation did he give?
4. Is the intention of the department to procure Governor-General's bronze medals for the following pupils: David McNair, of Armstrong; Lena Leary, of Ladner; Mary L. Bigger, of Klovna; Dorothy C. Jones, of Golden; Eloise Street, of Chilliwack; Pearl V. Leverington, of Armstrong; Marjorie McCullivary, of Chilliwack; Mary Palmer, of Cranbrook; Olive Young, of Pender; and R. Fulton, of Summerland; Charles Lawrence, of North Vancouver; and Cecile Boyd, of Coalingwood?
5. Is it the intention of the department hereafter to examine the pupils of any city school on the rural-set of questions at any High School entrance examination?
6. Were any marks deducted from the pupils' answers to the questions on the spelling paper at the last entrance examination on account of misplaced capitals or misplaced punctuation marks?
7. What are the requisites in order that a place may have the honor of receiving a Governor-General's bronze medal this year?
8. Is it the intention of the department to publish a notice in future 'Annual Schools Report,' calling attention to the unreliability of the inspectors' detailed reports as published in former 'Annual Reports?'
9. Is it the intention of the department hereafter to publish in the 'Annual Public Schools Report' the inspectors' detailed reports of their visits to each school?
10. Was David Blair, the drawing master, paid anything for attending the teachers' convention held at New Westminster in January, 1908? If yes, what amount?

Mr. Young answered as follows:

1. The regulations are acceptable to all fair-minded teachers.
2. That has been the usual practice.
3. No. The superintendent of education explained that the medal is given in incorporated.
4. No.
5. No decision arrived at.
6. It is not considered in the public interest to publish the details of examinations.
7. No decision arrived at.
8. The department does not admit liability for errors of this kind.
9. The questions has not been discussed.
10. No.

Petitions were presented as follows: From the Salvation Army for a bill for amending certain property in British Columbia (Fred. Davey, Victoria); for a bill to incorporate the city of South Vancouver (C. E. Tisdall, Vancouver); and for a bill to incorporate the Northern British Columbia Telephone Company (William Manson, Skeena).

W. H. Hayward (Cowichan) introduced a private bill to incorporate the Metchosin Railway Company.

Prayers were read to-day by Rev. Dr. Campbell.

BRIEF LOCALS

—Building permits have been issued to Mrs. A. Fletcher for a five-roomed house on the main trunk road from Victoria to Campbell river, and for the opening of trails in Comox.

This closed the debate and the motion for an address thanking his honor for the speech he made on the subject was passed without further comment.

Health of Schools.

The Minister of Education introduced a bill to provide for the medical inspection of schools. This in effect extends to all schools the inspection now made in the city schools. It gives the school boards the power to employ school health inspectors for their districts, and to the provincial board of health to do the same as regards unorganized districts, these inspectors to be fully qualified medical practitioners. The bill makes it imperative that there shall be a thorough examination once a year or oftener of the general health of all children, teachers and janitors, and in special cases may modify or prohibit them. All appointments made under the act are to be subject to the approval of the provincial board of health.

The Attorney-General introduced a bill to amend the Notaries Appointments Act, arising out of complaints that County Court judges have not been sufficiently discreet in approving of candidates for admission to the bar. The bill proposes that candidates shall come direct to the government for appointment, not forgetting their ten-dollar fee, instead of going to the County Court judges.

Mr. Bowser introduced another bill, the object of which is to amend the Coroners' Act so as to permit of the stenographic reporting of evidence at inquests where desired.

Mr. Jardine's Questions.

The member for Esquimalt asked the Premier: "Is it the intention of the government at an early date to remove the tolls for passenger and vehicular traffic from New Westminster bridge?"

"The question of the removal of tolls from the New Westminster bridge is receiving the attention of the government," replied the Premier, and even Conservatives smiled.

Mr. Jardine also asked the Minister

MANY LOSE LIVES IN STORM

BLIZZARD SWEEPS NORTHEASTERN ENGLAND

Two Schooners Are Wrecked—Crews Believed to Have Perished

London, Jan. 29.—The worst blizzard in the last twenty years is sweeping Northern England to-day. Northern villages are isolated by the interruption of railway and telegraph service. Snow twenty feet deep blocks train traffic, while gales have borne down the ehest-trees widely.

Loch Lomond, in Scotland, is frozen over for the first time since 1822.

Six persons are reported to have been drowned when the French schooner St. Balth founded in the storm.

The crew of the schooner Four Brothers is said to have been drowned when the vessel was driven on the North Wales coast.

AFFECTS EMPLOYMENT OF LAND SURVEYORS

An Interesting Case Now Before the Court of Appeal

(From Saturday's Daily.)

Yesterday afternoon, on the conclusion of the case of Bais vs. B. C. Electric Railway in the Court of Appeal, the hearing of Andrews vs. the Pacific Coast Coal Mines Company was taken up. H. G. P. Helsterman, who represents the company, was just concluding his argument when the court rose and the case will be continued on Monday. This is the last case to come before the court at this sitting in Victoria. The Court of Appeal will sit in Vancouver next week, on a date to be fixed on Monday.

Andrews vs. Pacific Coast Coal Company is an appeal from the decision of Judge Lappman, who allowed the claim of the plaintiff Andrews for \$105 due for dismissal without notice. Andrews was acting in the capacity of a surveyor for the company.

Mr. Helsterman, in his argument yesterday, contended that three experienced surveyors had given evidence to show that it was the custom here to give no notice and expect no notice.

Mr. Justice Irving expressed great surprise that this should be the practice. He found it hard to believe that in a rough, unsettled country like British Columbia a man could be thrown out of a camp to shift for himself miles away from any habitation.

To a question from Mr. Justice Irving, Mr. Helsterman admitted that there was a party at work on Queen Charlotte Island a man might be discharged and left to shift for himself until a steamer happened to be leaving. Counsel explained that it often happened in order to maintain discipline a man had to be discharged forthwith.

The chief justice asked counsel if he would not rather put it another way—that while there was no law here requiring a month's notice there was a custom which had here been defined by local custom to mean no notice at all. Mr. Helsterman concurred.

On Monday, R. T. Elliott, who appears for Andrews, will present argument.

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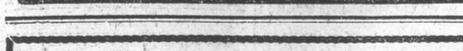
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NEW DEAL WITH THE FALL

MAYOR MORLEY SAID CITY MUST BE PRO

His Worship Reports Profits in Connecticut Public Work

Mayor Morley announced his report on the night's meeting of the city council, that as long as he remained there would never be another out to the B. C. Agricultural Union unless the money by the city officials and the town taken to see that the vote was regular; that he had negotiations with the city looking to a readjustment of relations between the city and the cultural society, and that written to Secretary Smith him that the city would be responsible for the expenditure further money in connection with the association. Morley's attitude was approved by his colleagues on council.

The remarks of the mayor on the presentation by the committee of a recommendation of the outstanding accounts to be paid, they have the books and accounts as in order.

Fullerton commented on the report of the committee of eight musicians, who the band at the fair, had received their money.

Ald. Langley, who is a member of the committee in response, said that the committee had found from an inspection that there seemed to be some error in the part of the committee in estimating the amount. Ald. Humber was in favor of adoption of the report. He said that there were several accounts which appeared extraordinary. One of them had been sold for \$65 and that it had produced the same amount.

Some member of the council to explain what he had to say that very matter to Mr. Ald. Langley said that he had said that there had been some error in the part of the committee in estimating the amount. Ald. Humber was in favor of adoption of the report. He said that there were several accounts which appeared extraordinary. One of them had been sold for \$65 and that it had produced the same amount.

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POSTAL MAY BE INCLUDED

rumor on Wall Other Companies Absorb

(Times Leased) Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 1. The reported telegraph absorption of the Western Telegraph Company by the American Telephone & Telegraph Company, according to some financial circles, is the same source as the rumor to the effect that the Western Telegraph Company soon will be merged with the monopoly of the telegraph messenger business in this country.