[From The Daily Colonist, March 19.]

ALBERNI GOLD BRICK.

Fourteen Tons Crushing Returns $520.49 in Free Gold.

The High Value of the Consolidated Alberni Fully Established.

Mr. James Dunsmuir returned yesterday from a short business trip to San Francisco. He brought back with him a gold brick, valued at $520.49, the result of crushing fourteen tons of ore at the Consolidated Alberni mill. This total does not include the gold held in the sulphurets, which will net about $30 per ton of ore. The amalgam was refined by Thos. Price & Sons of San Francisco, and the result cannot be otherwise than highly gratifying as it proves conclusively the great value of Consolidated Alberni ore. A shipment of eight tons went forward the other day per steamer Wellington consigned to the Messrs. Price. This will be thoroughly tested by them and a report made as to average value of the free milling ore and the sulphurets, and also as to the best character of stamp mill suitable for treating the ore. This determined a twenty stamp mill will be erected at the mine, and gold bricks will be common from the Mineral Hill section of Alberni distric.

At the present time over a dozen men are at work sinking a shaft from the surface of the tunnel at the 70-foot level. This shaft will be sunk 100 feet and drifts run from that level. This will demonstrate the continuity of the ore body, and there is little question regarding the result, as the vein is a true fissure. A telegram received yesterday from the mine stated that the ore at a depth of five feet in the new shaft, or seventy-five feet from the surface, was still of the same rich free gold character as that found near the surface.

The result of this trial run of fourteen tons should induce the owners of the surrounding claims to at once begin the development of their properties, for equally as good surface showings are found in many of them. The Alberni ledge has been traced through the Warspite and Last Dollar claims.

THE CITY.

Robert Hatcher died at the Jubilee hospital yesterday.

One by one the unsightly verandahs that are so dear to old timers as souvenirs of early days, disappear from Victoria's business thoroughfares. The last to go has been the verandah in front of the I.O.O.F. building on Douglas street.

The Orillia claim, adjoining the much talked about Tim Horn-and supposed to be on the same lead as that mine, has been purchased for an Eastern syndicate by Mr. C. A. Godson. The development of the property will be taken in hand at once.

Inquiry is being made for one W. Beck, who was a resident of this city as long ago as in 1874. If he is still living he will learn of something to his advantage by communicating with L. A. W. Prouix, 57 St. Gabriel street, Montreal. If he is dead, his remaining relatives would do well to make known the fact to M. Prouix.

The funeral of the late Alexander Hill took place yesterday afternoon from the family residence on Burnsa avenue, many sympathizing friends attending. Rev. R. W. Trotter conducted very impressive religious ceremonies both at the residence and at the final resting place in Ross Bay cemetery, while the following gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Messrs. Grimm, Robertson, Daker, Pointer, Hancock and Argyle.

Tickets are out for the Victoria Choral Union concert, to be held on April 7 in St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, which has been generously placed at the disposal of the society. The programme has not yet been announced, but it is understood to consist of selections from the best known oratorios and other sacred works, varied by solos both for voice and organ. Tickets may be obtained at the music stores or from members of the Choral Union.

Members of the Valhalla society and their friends, including the Cape Scott delegation of Danes, comfortably filled the society's hall, Broad street, and enjoyed a basket social last evening. Dancing was the principal amusement of the evening, but an odd feature was the auction of baskets in which the ladies brought the refreshments. Each basket contained the name of a young lady, through which the purchaser found his escort during the evening.

A proposition for putting the Victoria market to its legitimate use has at last taken form, the seed that was sown by Mr. Watson Clarke at the annual meeting of the Dairymen's Association having fallen into fertile soil. First of all the Fruit Growers' Association discussed it and then the district fruit growers concluded that they were the best qualified to carry the co-operation project into satisfactory execution. They have accordingly secured from the city the right to use four of the best located stalls from May to December, and, in conjunction with the Fruit Growers' Exchange, will endeavor to deal at a profit direct with the consumer throughout the fruit season.

As the Ladies' Auxiliary have undertaken to raise funds sufficient for the erection of a childrens' ward at the Jubilee hospital to commemorate Her Majesty's diamond jubilee reign, subscriptions have been opened and it is hoped all who are interested in the work and wish to assist will communicate with Mrs. A. J. Smith, 16 Superior street, the president, or with Mr. H. M. Yates, 47 Langley street, secretary and treasurer. The ladies do not wish to make this work a burden to anyone, but all subscriptions, no matter how small, will be thankfully received and duly acknowledged. A first subscription has been received from Mr. Dunsmuir, who starts the good movement with a contribution to the funds of $50.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Third Session of the Seventh Parliament.

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.

Thursday, March 18.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock.

Prayers by Rev. Canon Beanlands.

Mr. Kennedy presented a petition from the corporation of Westminster asking that certain clauses which had been struck out of the municipal act last year be restored.

The private bills committee reported "that, in consequence of bill 45, the Water Privileges and Power bill not having yet passed through the house, your committee is of opinion that the time limited for reporting bills should be extended for one week from March 22d and that the rules of the house be suspended for that purpose and your committee beg to recommend the same accordingly."

The report was received, and the rules being suspended, the report was adopted.

Hon. G. B. Martin presented a return in regard to the various leases held by the Sayward Mill and Timber Company, showing the amount paid for rental to be $2,810, and the amount due December 31, 1896, to be $6,463. The royalties have all been paid, and the government have no other claims against the company.

Mr. Helmcken moved, seconded by Major Mutter, for copies of all documents and correspondence connected with the recent visit of Officer McKenna to Nitinat, together with a copy of that officer's report theron.

Mr. Helmcken said he moved the resolution as Rev. Mr. Stone was afraid that there was something in the report reflecting on his character. If not he did not wish to press the resolution.

The hon. the attorney-general remarked that the report was in the nature of a confidential report to a superior officer, and it would be quite proper to refuse to produce it. At the same time, having seen the report, he could say that it did not reflect on Rev. Mr. Stone.

Mr. Helmcken, with the consent of the house, then withdrew the resolution.

Mr. McGregor asked the Attorney-General—What action does the government intend to take with reference to the appeal from the recent decision of the Supreme court re the Coal Mines Regulation Act?

Hon. D. M. Eberts replied:

The government intend to appear and contend in favor of the constitutionality of the act.

Mr. Irving asked the Attorney-General—Has the Dominion government any jurisdiction as to fishery matters in the inland waters and non-navigable streams of this province, and do the fishery regulations for British Columbia, unless enacted by the Dominion parliament, apply to the above mentioned waters of this province?

Hon. D. M. Eberts replied:

The whole question is now before the Privy Council on appeal from the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mr. Booth moved the second reading of the Rural Liquor License bill to make more definite the regulations to be complied with in applying for a license in rural municipalities.

The bill was read a second time.

FIRE INSURANCE POLICIES.

The house went into committee of the whole on Mr. Kennedy's Fire Insurance Policy Amendment bill. Mr. Forster in the chair.

Mr. Rithet spoke in opposition to the bill and a discussion followed on the same lines as during the second reading on the previous day.

The bill read:

"If any fire insurance company, through an agent or otherwise, issues a policy on a building, or on machinery or fixtures, and continues from time to time to accept the premium on such policy, the said fire insurance company, in the event of the destruction by fire of such building, machinery or fixtures, shall notwithstanding anything contained in the 'Fire Insurance Policy Act, 1893,' or amendments thereto, pay the full amount of such policy, unless fraudulent mis-statements by the insured, the truth of which the company, or its agent, had no means of verifying, can be shown by the company."

After some discussion Mr. Williams moved to amend the section to the effect that if after a fire the value of the property destroyed did not represent the amount of the policy on which the premium was paid, the company on the adjustment of the loss if the fraud was proven should refund the difference between the premium that they actually received and the premium that would have been paid on the actual value of the property.

This amendment did not meet with favor from either the friends or opponents of the bill and it was lost.

Mr. Kellie moved that section 2 be struck out. As clause 2 practically composed the bill this would have killed it altogether. This motion was lost, but the bill was killed immediately after by the committee agreeing to the motion by Mr. Rithet, to rise without reporting.

CHINESE LABORERS.

Mr. Adams moved the second reading of his "Chinese Laborer's Bill," which in effect prohibits persons obtaining privileges in private bills passed by the house from employing Chinese on their works. There were a great many people now coming into the province, he argued, and the passage of his bill would have the effect of giving any employment available to the white man.

Dr. Walkem supported the bill briefly.

Hon. C. E. Pooley, in opposing the bill, said it was very illiberal and would have a bad effect upon the province. If there was no money in the province, how were the very men who it was sought to protect to get work. Let it be known that capital was going to be hampered by such a bill and it would hurt the very people in the way he mentioned.

Mr. Foster maintained that it was a worn-out idea that the coming of Chinese to the province was necessary to its development. He considered that the best interests of the province would be conserved by keeping out not only Chinese, but Japanese as well. The employment of Chinese might result for a while in the benefit of the employer of labor, but it would only be a question of a few years when the Chinese would themselves oust the white employers of labor. He was sure that the Imperial Government would not interfere if we kept out Chinese and Japs altogether, for it was to the advantage to the future greatness of the Empire that a white population should be built up on this coast. He held too that the introduction of a class of labor without a vote could not be maintained without evil results.

Hon. Col. Baker in reference to the last contention of Mr. Forster, said that such an amendment could only mean that no foreigner should be allowed to work in the province. He held that if this province was ever to succeed the trade with China and Japan should be built up. This trade would give employment to a very large number of men and ships. If this present bill was passed it would mean that next year a bill would be brought in to stop Italians from working and then would come another bill to prevent Frenchmen from working and so on.

Mr. Macpherson held that the importation of Chinese would result in lowering the standard of the white laborer.

Mr. Kidd supported the bill, holding that the British race had a prior right to this country, and the people of to-day ought to care for the future of the race.

Mr. Kellie not only expressed his own opinion but that of 20,000 people in Kootenay, when he said that the passage of this bill would meet with universal approval. It was not fair to place white men in competition with Chinese who could live on 10 cents a day as well as a white man could on 75 cents or a dollar.

Mr. Kennedy for once agreed with the member from Northwest Kootenay, and supported the bill along the same lines.

Hon. Mr. Pooley, in explanation, said he never advocated the introduction of Chinese and honorable gentlemen had been systematically misquoting him. What he did say was that the passage of a bill of this kind would tend to prevent the introduction of capital into the province.

The second reading was carried on division by 21 to 8.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

Mr. Rithet presented a petition from the local Council of Women asking that provision be made in the municipal act giving municipalities power to have a curfew bell for children.

This was referred to the special committee on the municipal bill amendments.

The Attorney-General moved that a committee composed of Messrs. Booth, Helmcken, McGregor, Sword and Kidd be a special committee to whom should be referred the municipal elections act amendment and other matters referring to the municipal act.

This was carried.

THE TORRENS SYSTEM.

Dr. Walkem continued the debate on Mr. Cotton's motion that the government should take into consideration the Torrens system of land registration, and of doing away with the mortgage tax.

Mr. Williams was in favor of the resolution following on the lines used by Mr. Cotton the other day.

Hon. Mr. Turner in moving the adjournment of the debate remarked in reply to Mr. Williams that the cost of the introduction of the Torrens system would be very great. The resolution spoke of relieving the farmer, but said not a word about the business men. The then member from Vancouver (Mr. Cotton) had claimed that the farmer was so handicapped by the mortgage tax that he could not compete with the farmers on the United States side, but it was absurd to say that by having to pay $3 or $4 a year a farmer had his business ruined. The real trouble was that people had borrowed too freely and he was not sure that if money were harder to borrow it would not be a good thing in a measure. The Premier pointed out that if the personal tax were done away with some other tax would have to be imposed and he did not think that the farmer would swallow this resolution. The farmers asked for bread, and here was Mr. Cotton offering to relieve them by giving them a stone in the shape of the Torrens Act.

The debate was then adjourned and the house adjourned.

TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY.

Friday, March 19, 1897.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock.

Prayers by Rev. Canon Beanlands.

Mr. Huff presented a petition from the local Councils of Women of Vancouver and Victoria in favor of temperance teaching in the public schools. The petition was read and received.

Hon. Mr. Eberts introduced a bill for consolidating in one act certain provisions usually inserted in acts with respect to the constitution of companies incorporated for carrying on undertakings of a public nature. The bill was read a first time and set for second reading Monday.

Mr. Hume moved, seconded by Mr. Kennedy for a return showing the number of town lots sold by the government in New Denver and Nelson, giving date of each sale, purchaser's name, amount sold for, amount paid down and balance due, with interest to December 31, 1896. Carried.

Mr. Walkem moved for a return of all correspondence between the Attorney-General's department and John Biggs of Nanaimo in connection with the illegal seizure of some cattle by the sheriff.

The Attorney-General had no objection to the resolution, though he could not see its advantage. Seventeen or eighteen years ago Mr. Prior, as sheriff of Nanaimo, seized and sold some cattle which Mr. Biggs said were his—the sheriff said they were not, and the question might have been settled then and there if Mr. Biggs had seen fit to press his claim. This thing came up in the house year after year, and there was no advantage in it coming up again. The whole matter was futile, but he did not object to bringing down the correspondence if the house desired.

The resolution was lost, Dr. Walkem alone voting for it.

Mr. Williams asked the Premier:

1. Did business of the province require the attendance of the finance minister at London, England, during the year 1896?

2. Also, what was the nature of such business?

3. Could said business have been attended to by Hon. F. G. Vernon, agent-general of this province? If not, why not?

4. Was the agent-general competent to transact such business?

5. If the agent-general was not competent to transact such business, why is he retained in that position at the expense of this country?

6. How many days at London were actually required and occupied by the finance minister in attending to the business aforesaid?

7. Has any relation of the finance minister an interest in the firm of Woolston & Beeton, who received a commission for the management of the loan authorized by the B. C. Loan Act, 1891; and, if so, the nature of the relationship and interest?

Hon. Mr. Turner replied:

"1. The Finance Minister was not in London in 1896. The business of the province required his attendance in London in 1895; he was telegraphed for by the government brokers.

"2. Making arrangement for the issue of 1895 loan, and also for the friendly suit in connection with transfer of $166,313.76 to consolidated revenue of the province, which has since been effected.

"3. Not on this occasion, as in the issue of loans of all provinces or colonies the presence of the Finance minister of the province or colony is generally required.

"4. Yes.

"5. To attend to all the important matters that are constantly arising in connection with the province.

"6. About 97 days in London.

"7. No relation of the Finance Minister has any direct or indirect interest of any kind in the firm of Woolston & Beeton, and no relation of the Finance Minister received any commission whatever, directly or indirectly, in connection with the loan."

Mr. Semlin moved the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing the position of the government the day previous on the second reading of Mr. Adams' Chinese Labor bill.

Mr. Speaker ruled that no question already discussed during the present session could be brought up on a motion to adjourn.

Hon. Col. Baker could not see that the position of the ministry could be discussed on a bill brought in by a private member.

Mr. Semlin in explanation of his motion said that he wished to show that by the vote on Mr. Adam's bill the ministry had lost the confidence of the house.

The Premier wanted to know why it was that the leader of the opposition had not taken the manly course of giving notice of a want of confidence motion.

Dr. Walkem argued that by the vote on Mr. Adams' bill to prohibit the employment of Chinese on works built under private bills privileges they had forced on them a certain line of policy by the house.

Mr. Semlin took the view of Dr. Walkem that the government had lost the confidence of the house. The ministry had clearly laid down their policy and the house had adopted a reverse policy.

The provincial secretary said that the government might congratulate themselves if no better ground could be found for attacking them than that which Mr. Semlin took. Surely it could not be for a moment argued that the individual members of the government had not a right to vote as they pleased on any private bill.

Mr. Adams remarked that Mr. Semlin had apparently lost sight of the fact that the bill in question dealt altogether with private bills and not with public acts.

Major Mutter wanted to know whether the discussion was in order.

The Speaker—"I have waited for some honorable member to challenge my decision."

On the assurance of the mover that the discussion should not refer to the matter of the previous day at all, Mr. Speaker decided that the debate might proceed.

Mr. Semlin then repeated that the government had lost the confidence of the house, and there was but one course to pursue, for the ministry to resign.

The Premier thought Mr. Semlin had condemned himself. His point argued out meant that no private member could bring in a bill or a resolution that the government did not consent to. That would result in the loss of the independence of the members, and would be a preposterous and tyrannical position for any government to take. The bill itself did not refer to public works. It was a special bill for a special purpose, and was not a party bill in any shape or form.

Mr. Sword said that the question was whether the nature of the bill was of such a character that the government should have a decided stand upon it. As the leader of the opposition had said, the government had showed that their policy was contrary to the general wish of the house.

Hon. Col. Baker—Not at all. He, (Col. Baker), thought the gentlemen opposite were merely beating the air. If they wanted to bring in a vote of censure, why did they not do so. If they thought the government had not the confidence of the house, let them wait till the next government bill was brought down and then be undeceived.

Dr. Walkem and Mr. Kennedy followed on the line set by Mr. Semlin, and Mr. Rogers, who had voted for Mr. Adams' bill, disclaimed having in the least lost confidence in the government.

Mr. Williams, in supporting Mr. Semlin's view, remarked that there was no question upon which so much trimming was done for votes as the Chinese question. (Ironical laughter.)

It was pointed out by Mr. Booth in the discussion that followed that the charge of a change of policy could not be made against the government, for already Chinese were debarred from being employed on public works.

Mr. Semlin sought leave to withdraw his resolution, but the house refused by a vote of 20 to 10, and the resolution was thereupon voted down on that division.

The Premier directed attention to an article in the Times of the preceding evening which seemed to intimate that the statistics of trade which the government were asking from business men were from some ulterior motive. He pointed out that these returns were confidential and were only for the purpose of showing what the trade of the province was, with the idea of demonstrating how this province stood in its relation to the other provinces of the Dominion.

The house went into committee on the Water Clauses Consolidation bill, Dr. Walkem in the chair. In committee a discussion arose through Mr. Forster moving to strike out sub-section (a) section 6 of part I, which provided that where rents or tolls for water were charged by the Crown they should be fixed for five years and thereafter subject to quinquennial adjustment. He held that until some understanding was arrived at as to what the rent should be, five years was too long a time.

The amendment was lost, but another amendment was carried fixing the time at three years, instead of five.

Mr. Kellie rose to make some remarks on the amendment but too late, as the chair declared the section passed.

Mr. Kellie—"But, Mr. Chairman, I was on my feet before the section was passed?"

The Chair, decisively—"Can't help it; the section is passed."

Mr. Kellie stood protesting while some member began to count—"one! two!! three!!! and at the end of ten seconds declared Mr. Kellie counted out amid laughter and applause.

Mr. Kellie—"But Mr. Speaker——"

The Chair—"You are out of order; address the chair, the speaker is not here." (Shouts of laughter.)

Major Mutter—"Is it competent for me to move that the chair be sustained?"

The Chair (airily—"Oh, it's not necessary; the section is passed." (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. Kellie—"I will move, then, that the section be reconsidered."

The Chair (blandly)—"That's all right; now you are in order."

The committee at this point rose, reported and asked leave to sit again, and the house adjourned.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

By Mr. Rithet—To ask: "Has the government any information regarding a reported change of route by way of the Cape of Good Hope instead of by way of the Pacific ocean, British Columbia and the Dominion, for the proposed all-through British cable line between Australia and Great Britain?"

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of a few members of the house to interpose all manner of obstacles to the investment of capital in this country. If some of those gentlemen who believe themselves to be advanced reformers could have their way every man having a dollar to invest would shun this province as they would a plague spot. We cannot get capital to develop our resources if we surround investment with novel and burdensome restrictions.

Mr. Kennedy's insurance bill looks like a premium on incendiarism. Of course nothing is farther from the promoter's intention than to make it an object for persons whose property is overinsured to have it destroyed by fire; but if it is the law that an insurance company shall pay the amount of the policy no matter what may be the value of the property, the temptation to overvalue property and then have it burned will be very great. It is a man's own fault if he insures his property for more than it is worth, and no one should be allowed to take advantage of his own wrong.

The bill had a close call on second reading—only the Speaker's vote saving it. One would fancy that its final fate would not be in much doubt. Have the friends of this measure counted the cost of it in case it becomes law. One thing may always be taken as certain, namely, that the greater the burden imposed on the insurance company the greater the charges to be paid by the insured. Is such a law in force anywhere else, and if so how does it work?

The precedents which establish the custom under which Mr. Speaker gives his casting vote for a second reading are reasonable. There are other opportunities to kill an objectionable bill and a measure which half the house wants passed may well be allowed to go into the hands of the committee of the whole for further discussion.

How many M's.P.P., who grow warm over the rights of labor to vote against the employment of Chinese, refuse to employ Chinese themselves?

Mr. Semlin propounded rather an amazing idea when he told Mr. Kellie that as he (Kellie) had voted for the second reading of a bill he was committed to the principle involved. A vote for anything in a parliamentary body binds a member to nothing. He may vote one way one minute and another way the next. Surely Mr. Semlin knows this and he must simply have been trying to put the member from Kootenay in a hole.

Mr. Kennedy admitted that one reason for introducing his insurance bill was that people will not read the conditions of their policies. How would it do to appoint a day when all men shall assemble in some fit place and read their policies under penalty of imprisonment? Or how would it do to have a sort of lay reader appointed to go around the country and read the policies to people who hold them! How would it do to pass a general statute declaring that all manikind shall have sense enough to go in the house when it rains? Let us have plenty of paternal legislation. The Anglo-Saxon, of whose glories Mr. Forster loves to orate, has never been brought up on legislative pap. He has never had paternal legislators to provide substitutes for ordinary common sense; but we suppose times have changed.

It was an odd motion that sealed the fate of Mr. Kennedy's bill, and it would not be difficult to improve the practice of the legislature in that respect. In the New Brunswick legislature, where the rules are the result of more than a century's experience, the first test vote on a bill always comes in committee of the whole and on a motion to read the bill section by section, which is always put by the chairman. If, after the principle of a bill has been affirmed on this vote, objections are discovered or for any other reason opponents of the bill think they can kill it, they do so by directing the chairman to report progress without asking leave to sit again, or by postponing further consideration for some long period, such as six months.

By the way, the practice of the British Columbia legislature, following very closely the rules of the house of commons at Westminster, is needlessly involved and could be greatly simplified by being made to conform to the rules of the legislatures in the Maritime provinces. Thus in those legislatures a bill may be introduced and petitions may be presented at any time without notice, the first and second readings follow as a matter of course, both being by title and the second reading taking place immediately after the reading of the Journal on the day after the bill is introduced. The bill is then ready for the proper standing committee, to which it goes without a formal motion. When the standing committee, or, if it is referred to a special committee, that committee reports, the bill is ready for the committee of the whole at any time without notice.

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On the said farm are about 600 cattle of all ages, and about 80 horses, besides a full equipment of the latest farming machinery, including mowers, self binder, thresher, etc., etc., all of which are to be sold therewith. Good dwelling houses, outhouses, stables, etc., are on the premises.

The title is Crown Grant.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

For further particulars apply to the undersigned.

D. MURPHY,
47 Langley St., Victoria.
Solicitor for the Owners.

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THE COLONIST,
VICTORIA

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

To the Editor:—It is proposed—as intimated by the Mayor at last night's public meeting—to celebrate in some special and commemorative manner, Our Most Gracious Majesty's diamond jubilee.

His Worship stated that suggestions as to the method of suitably marking this interesting epoch had already been made. One advising more generous support of our hospital; another a statue of her Majesty, in the public grounds, and so on.

It seems to me that a fitting and profitable means of commemorating the unparalled reign of her Majesty, would be the founding of a place of learning, say that of a normal school—if not more aspiring—to be known as "Queen Victoria Normal School," thereby accomplishing a double purpose, through filling a void in our educational requirements while testifying our love and loyalty to Queen and country.

R. B.