

PROVINCIAL HOUSE

Position Fight Supply is Checked by the Adverse Rulings of the Speaker.

Day Spent in Citing Reasons Why Supplies Should be Withheld for the Present

Injustices of the Present System Representation Discussed by Several Members.

Victoria, March 15.

The speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock. Prayers by Rev. W. C. Clark. Mr. Sword presented a petition from Hirschfeld Cohen for a private bill to appropriate the Portland and Seaford Aways Company.

Mr. Hunter presented the twenty-fourth report from the private bills committee as follows: That your committee have considered petition No. 12, the petition of the Donau-Lardo Railway Company, and find that the standing rules have not been complied with, inasmuch as the petition was not presented within the time limit for the deposit of copies of the petition and notices with the clerk.

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Mr. Sword to state his reasons why the house should not go into committee of supply. Mr. Sword accordingly offered an amendment in which he stated that it was the desire of the house that the measures intimated in the speech from the throne should first be brought down. There were only a few measures referred to—the redistribution bill, the V. & E. railway bill, and one or two others. The scope of the bill would really be very limited. The reasons given by Mr. Sword were very cogent reasons why the committee should not be formed until such time as the measures mentioned were brought down. He thought that there could be no objection to the speaker's ruling that the scope of the discussion upon it would be very limited. Before the amendment was offered there was no limit to the debate. The bill then the amendment was upon the lines of the speaker's ruling. The only objection that could be raised was that the government did not want to have the matters mentioned discussed.

The speaker informed Mr. Williams that it was the intention of the government to withhold its policy until it considered the time opportune. Mr. Sword admitted that this statement was correct, but he should not be forgotten that the house had the right to say that until such legislation was brought down it was refused to grant supply within its right to refuse to grant supply until it knew the policy of the government. The speaker accordingly stated that the government admitted that it had a policy. Col. Baker said that the present was the first time that the house had the contention fairly before it. The motion could be settled by a vote one way or the other. The speaker accordingly stated that the house should be obliged to bring down its whole policy or not, if the members of the opposition wished to have a vote upon it. It was the intention of the speaker to state whether the government was to dictate its own policy or whether the house should dictate its policy.

Mr. Sword repeated that the contention of the opposition was that until a certain portion of the government's policy was developed, the members of the opposition would decline to assist in the matter of supply.

Mr. Sword stated that the proposed amendment was an intimation to the government that it should disclose its whole policy. He again ruled it out of order.

Mr. Forster returned the opinion that the speaker was wrong. He pointed out that the government always intended to have a policy on certain matters and the opposition merely wished that the supply be delayed until they were informed of the government's policy upon such questions.

The speaker repeated that it was the prerogative of the government to set its own time for the development of its general policy.

Mr. Kennedy replied that it was one of the prerogatives of the house to withhold supply until the government's policy was redressed. If the house considered that certain grievances should be redressed it was justified in taking every means to bring about that end. The government was taking any preliminary step towards securing supplies.

The speaker replied that he would be in order when the house went into consideration of supply.

Hon. Mr. Turner said that it was an extraordinary thing that the speaker should ask for a decision of the speaker and then proceed to discuss it. He held that the house should either accept or reject the speaker's ruling.

To follow on the practice of Mr. Sword was merely obstructing the business of the house.

Mr. Williams replied that if such a practice constituted obstruction tactics, no one had obstructed the business of the house more than the speaker himself. No member of the house had devoted so much time to the discussion of the speaker's rulings as the speaker had and it was only yesterday that he had called attention to the lack of respect shown by the premier for the rulings of the speaker.

Mr. Sword then announced that as the speaker's ruling could not be discussed without taking an appeal from it, he would be obliged to appeal for that purpose.

The speaker then put the question "shall the speaker be sustained?" and while Mr. Sword was getting upon his feet to debate the question the government members shouted assent.

Mr. Sword protested that the motion was debatable and said that he proposed to debate it. He said that the ruling of the speaker appeared to have narrowed the scope of the question to the point of whether or not the house should go into committee at once or not. That being the case he proposed to debate it. The members of the opposition stated that they knew the policy of the government upon the matters mentioned in the speech from the throne.

Hon. Mr. Martin took a point of order on the question of the speaker's ruling and said that further debate was not in order.

The speaker replied that he had not taken the motion into consideration.

Mr. Sword protested that he had taken an appeal from the speaker's ruling and that the motion was debatable, and that so soon as the speaker had put the question he had risen to his feet and that he was entitled to be heard.

Col. Baker replied that no debate was in order.

Mr. Williams contended that the motion could not be discussed until it had been formally put by the speaker. If the honorable members shouted out of order when the motion was read over by the speaker, such action should not deprive the mover of the motion from his right to discuss it.

Mr. Sword insisted upon his right to discuss the motion. He ventured the opinion that the members of the house would not wish to prevent discussion upon so important a matter.

Mr. Semlin also protested against shutting off the debate in such a manner, but the question was put and the chair was taken by Mr. Sword. The motion was then put and the speaker's ruling was sustained.

The question that the house go into committee was then put and carried and Mr. Hunter moved that the motion be referred to a committee.

The resolution that supply be granted to Her Majesty was then put.

Mr. Semlin asked whether the motion was subject to debate. Whether the house had got to the point where the matter could be debated whether supply should be granted or not.

The chairman replied that he thought not.

Mr. Semlin in reply contended that the members of the house should be asked the question and speak upon it as often as

they wished. The procedure was the same as in any other committee. The members of the house objected to the granting of supplies until they were informed what the government intended to do with respect to the various measures mentioned in the speech from the throne. This practice was authorized by the usages of parliament. If the government got its supplies through there would be no security against its adjourning the house at once if they saw fit. The refusal of supplies was the only means by which the house could insist upon the performance of its whole duty by the government.

Col. Baker repeated his opinion that such was an extraordinary course for the opposition to take. They actually attempted to dictate to the government the time when the government should bring down its measures. There was nothing extraordinary in the necessity of a redistribution of seats. The redistribution measure was brought down every four years.

Mr. Kennedy contended that there was an extension of the course which had been decided upon by the members of the opposition. The house had every reason to believe that the government intended to bring down its measures at the time mentioned in the speech from the throne might not be framed in accordance with the best interests of the public.

The most important feature of the redistribution of seats was the abolition of the house knew the abolition which the government wished to bring down. For this reason he thought that the house was justified in asking that the new redistribution measure be placed before the house before the government's supplies. The vote for supplies was the only lever which the house had for forcing the government to bring down its measures. The house thought, could be done.

Mr. Semlin protested that there was no attempt being made to dictate to the government's policy. The speaker outlined certain legislation in the speech from the throne and the members of the opposition wished to delay the voting of the supplies until the measures intimated were laid before the house. He then moved an amendment to the motion which made it read "that supplies be not granted until the government has laid down its policy." This was seconded by Mr. Williams.

Mr. Forster, in speaking to the amendment denied the statement of Col. Baker that there was no urgent matter before the house or the province. He claimed that there were many other matters of the province had been refused just representation in the house. He pointed out that the government had been practically disenfranchised. All districts nominally had representation and sent members to the house, but in many other districts one half of the voters were without a proper voice in the government of the province.

Mr. Forster contended that the government so often that it had lost its novelty. On Vancouver Island, districts which had had two representatives for the house, while the more populous districts sent but one. The effect of this was that the government was not sufficiently serious question. It was such a question which had lost to the empire of Great Britain and the Dominion of Wales. Mr. Forster contended that when the members of the house knew that there was a government in the house, they should for several years to do justice to every district. It was quite proper that the house should take it up. When the government refused to do justice to every constituency their representatives had the right to say that before supplies were granted the government should be obliged to do justice. He said that May showed that this power had often been exercised for the purpose of compelling the government to redress certain grievances.

Mr. Sword intimated that there were other matters before the house at the present time. He said that the members of the opposition wished to know how the government proposed to carry out the policy intimated in the speech from the throne with respect to the provisions to be made for railway connection with the Klondike railway. The speaker intended to refer to the Boundary Creek railway had progressed. He thought that both of these matters were of great importance.

Mr. Sword moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Martin, that this house will on Monday next resolve itself into committee of supply.

Mr. Sword moved in amendment, seconded by Hon. Mr. Martin, to strike out the words "Monday next" and substitute "Friday, 25th inst."

The amendment was negatived. The speaker then proposed and resolved in the affirmative.

Hon. Mr. Martin presented a return of all papers, petitions and correspondence during the present year relating to "log scaling."

Mr. Riffet presented the eighth report from the railway committee, as follows: The committee have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the British Columbia capable of being made an ocean port may be designated by the Dominion government. It is just possible that a contract entered into between the said government and William Mackenzie and Donald D. Mann, and dated the 25th day of January, A.D. 1897, in relation to the proposed after the word "channel," in the fourth line, and also in section 15 of the contract, after the word "channel," in the fourth line of said section 15. Subject to the above, the committee report the preamble proved, and submit the bill with the Standard gauge wharf at the Skeena. The rules were suspended and the report adopted.

The standing rules and orders were suspended and the twenty-fourth report from the private bills committee was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Heincken, private bill (No. 31) intituled "An Act to incorporate the British Columbia and Lardner Railway," was introduced and read a first time and referred to the railway committee.

AN EPIDEMIC OF COLDS. Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder Proves the Good Samaritan to Thousands of Sufferers in the Present Epidemic.

Many Who Knows What to do to secure relief in the present epidemic is the question that thousands are asking. Colds this season attack the throat and head and there is nothing gives relief so quickly in every such case as Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. George E. Casey, of Seattle, Wash., writes: "I have used your Catarrhal Powder and bear testimony of its undoubted goodness."

UNITED STATES SECURES WARSHIPS. London, March 14.—The Brazilian minister confirms the report that the warships Mazana and Admiral Bruu have been sold to the United States government. The contract was signed yesterday, and the Brazilian officers and crew on board the Mazana will return to Brazil by the next mail steamer sailing to that country.

SKAGWAY NEWS

Law-Abiding Citizens Aided by Military Put a Stop to Gambling and "Surething" Games.

The 101 Against 317—H. Bean, a Miner Murdered on the Skagway Trail.

The Bark Canada Beached at Skagway—The Corona Again Afloat—Condition of the Trails.

The law-abiding citizens of Skagway have, according to the news brought down by the steamer Islander this morning, taken advantage of the presence of the two companies of United States Infantry to place their city on a respectable social standing. On Tuesday last they banded together and, backed by the military, closed all the gambling houses and stopped all "flimsy" and "surething" games in the city and on the trail. They presented a list of names of the gamblers and their determination and ordering the Sooty Smith gang to stop their operations. As can be imagined, the gamblers did not close without a fight. The gamblers went on until four o'clock, the hour at which the committee ordered them to close and then the soldiers made their rounds and closed each place. The gambling element were much enraged at this treatment and threatened all manner of things, but seeing their weakness compared with the soldiers, did not attempt anything. They were still more enraged shortly afterwards when the citizens committee of 101 members issued the following proclamation:

WARNING. A Word to the Wise Should Be Sufficient. All Confidence, Bunco, and Sure-thing Men. And all other objectionable characters are notified to leave Skagway and White Pass road immediately, and to remain away from the city and trail.

Failure to comply with this warning will be followed by prompt action. Skagway, March 8, 1898.

On seeing the warning, Sooty Smith and his crowd of toughs held a meeting and after many speeches, in which the citizens of all sorts were made against the "101," the following answer was drafted:

ANSWER TO WARNING. The body of men styling themselves 101 are hereby notified that any overture committed by them will be promptly met by the law-abiding citizens of Skagway and each member and HIS PROPERTY will be held responsible for any unlawful act on their part, and the law-abiding order society, consisting of 317 citizens, will see that justice is done out to its full extent, as no Blackmailers or Vigilantes will be tolerated.

(Signed) THE COMMITTEE. The gambling tables were still silent as the men having been taken from the city and the military were likely to remain so, as the law-abiding citizens, aided by the military were determined to obliterate the social evil of gambling.

News was also brought by the Islander of a murder on the Skagway trail. H. Bean, a miner, who was killed by a shot dead seven miles from Skagway, having been shot by some person unknown. The murderer must have sprung upon him from ambush and placed the revolver close to his face when he pulled the trigger, for the features of the unfortunate man were torn, blackened and burned by powder. The body was discovered shortly after the murder was committed, for it was still warm. In a belt worn by the dead man \$300 was found, and in his pockets with his papers, among which was a miner's license, procured by the deceased in this city, was \$33.50 in different coins. It is believed at Skagway the deceased was murdered by some person or persons who had been robbed of their money for the crime, but were started before they could steal the money for which they had ruthlessly slain their victim. A search is being made for the culprit or culprits, but when the Islander sailed no trace had been discovered.

The bark Canada, carried away from Skagway in a storm and abandoned by her crew, has been safely beached on the flats at Hayes Mission. She is valued at \$50,000 of lumber, three hundred tons of coal and three hundred tons of merchandise. The bark has been in a chronic state of decay, and the vessel will be saved, but she will no longer be useful as a sailing craft.

A large bark discharging at Skagway yesterday during the gale on Thursday last, but was not seriously damaged. It was thought she would be floated on high tide.

The vessels at Skagway on Thursday last were the George W. Elder, Rosalie, Cleveland, Lucille, Canada, Shirley and the Cas left of the White Pass. The Lucille was discharging the supplies of the relief expedition, which since her departure has been abandoned.

The steamer Corona has been patched up sufficiently at Kennedy Island to stand the voyage, and has been taken to the Standard gauge wharf at the Skeena, where she is awaiting the tug Lorne to tow her down. She would have been able to come down under steam, but her boiler split owing to long immersion.

The trails are said to be in good condition, and a number of men are going in. The Dyea trail, from the Skeena to the summit is in a very remarkable condition. The constant travel has worn a groove in the snow several feet deep and about four feet wide. Down this the men slide with their old coats tucked about them and make good time.

From Sheep Camp to Stone House the snow has worn off in places exposing the rocks. In a little while, unless more snow falls, pack horses will be used to advantage over this part of the road.

Men who have just arrived in town speak of the trails as being in good order. It is stated that upward of 6,000 people are between Dyea and the lakes, and are moving on in good order. A miner who returned to Skagway over the Skagway trail shortly before the Islander left, stated that he saw more of the men on the trail, tents, caches, etc. He counted 520 tents, 420 caches, 125 men driving horses, 227 horses and sleighs, 16 oxen and 30 dog teams with from three to eight dogs in each team. He was compelled to stop two hours on the summit while the caravans moved past.

Two shooting accidents are reported from Dyea. Ross Starkey was killed through the accidental discharge of his revolver on Saturday last, and on Monday Deputy Marshal Quinlan received a wound in his leg from the discharge of his revolver, the trigger having caught in his pocket. The remains of Starkey will be sent to his home at Onroy, Colorado.

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The bark Canada, carried away from Skagway in a storm and abandoned by her crew, has been safely beached on the flats at Hayes Mission. She is valued at \$50,000 of lumber, three hundred tons of coal and three hundred tons of merchandise. The bark has been in a chronic state of decay, and the vessel will be saved, but she will no longer be useful as a sailing craft.

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The steamer Corona has been patched up sufficiently at Kennedy Island to stand the voyage, and has been taken to the Standard gauge wharf at the Skeena, where she is awaiting the tug Lorne to tow her down. She would have been able to come down under steam, but her boiler split owing to long immersion.

The trails are said to be in good condition, and a number of men are going in. The Dyea trail, from the Skeena to the summit is in a very remarkable condition. The constant travel has worn a groove in the snow several feet deep and about four feet wide. Down this the men slide with their old coats tucked about them and make good time.

From Sheep Camp to Stone House the snow has worn off in places exposing the rocks. In a little while, unless more snow falls, pack horses will be used to advantage over this part of the road.

Men who have just arrived in town speak of the trails as being in good order. It is stated that upward of 6,000 people are between Dyea and the lakes, and are moving on in good order. A miner who returned to Skagway over the Skagway trail shortly before the Islander left, stated that he saw more of the men on the trail, tents, caches, etc. He counted 520 tents, 420 caches, 125 men driving horses, 227 horses and sleighs, 16 oxen and 30 dog teams with from three to eight dogs in each team. He was compelled to stop two hours on the summit while the caravans moved past.

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RACE AND RUSSIA

Preparing to Confront Great Britain in Force in the Far East.

Fleet Mobilizing—Several Activity Prevails at all Armories.

March 16.—The Aurora today reported that the French fleet is being mobilized for operations in the Far East. It is asserted that all the ships available are