HOUSE ADVANCES MANY MEASURES

Committee of Supply Completed Its Labors Yesterday Morning

A SOCIALISTIC APHORISM

Premier Makes Statement Regarding Proposed Loan to Zinc Company

(From Sunday's Daily)

The estimates were finally passed in committee of supply yesterday morning amid the applause of the government members and the relief of the entire legislature. The supplementary estimates brought out little of interest.

The member for Greenwood had his final word with the member for Similkameen upon the matter of the bridge over the Kettle river. Mr. Shatford made a statement in connection with the matter showing that the bridge where now located will serve the interests and convenience of a greater number of the residents of the district than in the proposed location in Greenwood district.

Hon. W. J. Bowser was interrogated upon the subject of the chase for the fugitive Gun-a-Noot. He maintained that the provincial police, though still unsuccessful, must and would finally capture the Indian.

In moving the second reading of the bill empowering the government to loan $10,000 to the Canada Zinc company, the premier made a statement at some length upon the matter. The proposal was indorsed by the leader of the opposition.

Parker Williams resumed the debate upon the second reading of the Civil Service bill. He opposed the superannuation clauses of the act and expressed his intention of bringing in an amendment providing for old age pensions for wage earners at large. It was in this connection that he gave expression to an aphorism which should linger long in the memory of Socialists generally and be often found upon the Socialistic tongue. The member for Newcastle remarked: "Better and more precious to me is the hide of the workingman than the fat of priests."

Five bills were introduced and read a first time. Three of these are government measures of a minor technical nature. Parker Williams is seeking to have payday come twice instead of once a month.

After leaving the estimates the house made rapid progress with the order paper.

It is thought that the session will be finished by Thursday of this week. In all some thirty-eight bills have reached third reading. Of these, eleven have already received the assent of the lieutenant-governor. There are in all some seventy bills upon the order paper, many of which, however, are of a minor nature.

The Speaker took the chair at 10.15 o'clock.

Morning Session

The house took under consideration the supplementary estimates. On vote 16, legislative library, stenographer and typwriter, 10 months, $250.

Mr. Henderson (Yale) urged that the leader of the opposition should be provided with a room. As matters stood it was quite true that everyone was very accommodating, and while he was not complaining of any lack of courtesy on the part of the government or on the part of any one, nevertheless a distinct inconvenience was felt, and one which should be remedied at an early date.

Hon. Mr. McBride: In answer to the hon. member for Yale, I admit, it is most essential that the hon. the leader of the opposition should have a private office in the buildings, and I hope that during recess some satisfactory plan may be evolved for having accommodation provided by next session. With respect to the building generally the increase in the public business has fairly demonstrated that additional quarters must be provided for the public service, but at the same time there are so many pressing needs to be met that it is scarcely fair to expect a definite statement on that subject at the present moment.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite urged that if anything was done in the way of providing accommodation for private members, the requirements of the only real opposition in the house, the Socialist party, should have the first consideration. The items was agreed to.

Ladysmith Agency

On item 25, administrative staff, Nanaimo agency, clerk $480, in reply to Parker Williams (Newcastle) who urged the reopening of the agency at Ladysmith.

Hon. Mr. McBride: Mr. chairman, I might explain that this is simply an arrangement made in order to do away with an item which has been constantly appearing in the public accounts for temporary service in this office. As it has always seemed necessary to procure temporary assistance in order to bring the work in this office up to date, and since owing to greater development of the business there is every reason for believing that this state of things will continue, it has been decided to make the position permanent. I cannot, however, admit that the arguments of my hon. friend for Newcastle in respect to the office at Ladysmith have any force. The agency at that place was abolished on the recommendation of the inspector of offices. There is absolutely no disposition on the part of the government to discriminate against Ladysmith. The change is simply and solely due to grounds of economy, and the present requirements of public business, while nearly every convenience that was formerly enjoyed at Ladysmith is now supplied to the public at Nanaimo. And further, I do not think that the time has arrived for reverting to the old system of having an agency in Ladysmith.

Mr. Williams added that besides the inconvenience which was caused residents in the southern part of the district in consequence of the change, more was being lost to the revenue through failure to collect taxes from the Chinese and Japanese than was saved by the closing of the agency. The item was agreed to.

Provincial Police.

On vote 41, provincial police, additional to $70,000 already voted, $7,000.

Hon. Mr. Bowser explained that the rapid development of the country had necessitated considerable increases in this department. Provincial policemen were paid $75 a month, and it was questionable whether in the circumstances this was sufficient, as, owing to the fact that these men were frequently obliged to act on their own initiative in the performance of their duties, the very best class of men was needed in the service.

In answer to G. R. Naden (Greenwood), in reference to the case of Simon Gun-a-noot, the Indian who is supposed in a drunken brawl to have shot two halfbreeds, Hon. Mr. Bowser stated it was quite true that this man had managed so far to evade arrest. Since he had undertaken the duties of attorney-general he had sent two expeditions in quest of the accused, but all the efforts which had been made in this direction had unfortunately proved absolutely futile. It was, however, fair to say that the difficulties which were constantly encountered by the police were indeed very great; the country in the North, to which Gun-a-noot had fled, was almost inaccessible, and there further seemed to be some system of wireless communication which enabled information in respect to the movements of the police to be communicated to this outlaw and his friends. But he would not cease in his efforts, and hoped that they would yet succeed in making the arrest.

Mr. Naden thought that the expeditions sent out were inadequate for the purpose in view.

Dr. W. T. Kergin (Skeena) remarked that this man was not only a clever trapper, but one of the best shots in the country.

Hon. Mr. Bowser assured the house that this man would yet be captured. In fact, he must be captured, for it would not do to allow the impression to spread among these half-civilized tribes that crime could be committed with impunity.

Mr. Williams enquired whether this crime had been inspired by feelings of revenge in consequence of immoral practices. If so, an Indian had as much right as Harry Thaw or anyone else to take human life in like circumstances.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: We cannot settle such a question as that. It is simply our duty to arrest those who are charged with crimes and bring them before the courts. But I have no doubt that if any such circumstances exist they will receive every possible consideration from the judge who may hear the case.

John Jardine (Esquimalt) ascribed the commission of the crime to the sale of liquor to these people.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: Mr. Chairman, the discussion is taking a turn which is not in the interests of the administration of justice.

The item was agreed to.

Votes for Bridges.

On vote 172, $40,000 for bridges throughout the province, Mr. Naden went into the question of the bridge at Rock Creek, across the Kettle river, at some length. He rehearsed all that he said the previous day and most of his remarks in committee. He placed the responsibility for what he claimed was a breach of faith on the part of the government, not upon the chief commissioner, not upon the chief engineer but upon the premier himself. A year ago when going the rounds of Similkameen he had debauched all this portion of that constituency by promising that the government would erect the bridge desired in Similkameen.

L. W. Shatford (Similkameen) in response congratulated the member for Greenwood upon what was a lengthy speech. He did not believe that it was quite so serious a matter as the hon. member for Greenwood had made out. He was surprised that that gentleman had not called for a royal commission to investigate the matter. The facts of the matter he would state.

The residents of Rock creek and the vicinity three years ago petitioned the government and himself for a bridge to be placed at this point in Similkameen territory. In Jan., 1907, he had been told that the hon. member for Greenwood had been promising certain constituents of Greenwood that if elected he would do all in his power to have the bridge constructed in Greenwood territory.

Mr. Naden.—"I have never made such a statement."

Mr. Shatford, continuing, said that last year the chief commissioner had succeeded in including a vote for this bridge in the estimates, to be built in Similkameen. Now the bridge was in course of construction at a site which was satisfactory to by far the largest portion of the people whom it will serve. It was here that the main trunk roads of the district joined one another. It had been deemed so central a portion of the district that the Dominion government had recognized the fact and had here located their post office. It remained there for 20 years, and it was only recently that at the instance of Duncan Ross for political purposes it had been changed. When the change was made 75 per cent. of the people of the district signed a petition against the change. Before the commencement of the erection of the bridge he had personally interviewed a large number of the residents and they had all concurred in the location he had chosen. The question of cost was not alone to be considered. There was the question of serving the convenience of the people. The entire matter had been brought up for political reasons by the member for Greenwood. Why did he not wait until the official opening of the bridge and then discuss the matter with the electors?

His First Experience.

Hon. Mr. McBride.—The member for Greenwood has for the first time charged me with debauchery in the matter of appropriations of public money in connection with the elections. This is, I am glad to say, the first time that I have ever been referred to in such an ungentlemanly and in such unparliamentary terms. I regret the circumstance very much, but in regard to what has been said, I have only to say this, that I never during the election promised the people of Rock creek to have the bridge built at any particular place.

Quesnel Ferry.

On vote 182, Fraser river ferry at Quesnel, $2,500, in reply to J. M. Yorston (Cariboo), who held that this work could have been done for $1,900, while with the previous vote its cost would now reach $4,900, Hon. Mr. Fulton explained that the present vote included the operating cost. An inquiry would however be made into the matter.

The vote was agreed to.

Estimates Concluded

On the conclusion of the estimates the supporters of the government applauded heartily.

On motion of the Hon. Mr. Tatlow the committee rose and reported.

The house adjourned at 1.15 o'clock.

Afternoon Session

At the afternoon session Hon. Dr. Young introduced a bill entitled An Act to Amend the Shops Regulation act. The amendment merely provides a penalty for infractions of the regulations governing lavatories, in the act. The bill was given first and second readings. Upon its consideration in committee A. E. McPhillips (Islands) stated that the act was not enforced in municipalities at all. The burden of enforcing the law rested upon the municipalities, and he asked the provincial secretary if there might not be some fault in the act which caused its non-enforcement.

The provincial secretary pointed out that he was providing a penalty which should aid in making the enforcement of the act possible.

The act was committed and will come up for third reading on Monday.

Hon. Mr. Bowser introduced a bill entitled An Act to Consolidate and Amend the Acts Respecting Judgments. The bill was given its first and second reading.

The attorney-general also introduced a bill to amend the Settled Estates act. This provides that an order for sale shall be general and that the court may sanction a scheme for the gradual realization of proceeds when the estate is incumbered. The bill was given first and second reading.

Hon. F. J. Fulton introduced a bill amending the Timber Measurement act. This provides for the appointment of assistant supervisors as well as supervisors under the measure. The bill was given first reading.

Parker Williams (Newcastle) introduced a bill entitled An Act Respecting the Payment of Wages. This provided for fortnightly payment of wages instead of monthly, as is at present the law. The bill was given its first reading.

John Jardine (Esquimalt) introduced a bill entitled An Act for the Better Securing of Certain Miners' Wages.

Committee of Supply

Hon. R. G. Tatlow moved that the report of the committee of supply be received. He moved that the resolutions be read a first time.

Mr. Williams endeavored to introduce an amendment but was ruled out of order. He was informed by the speaker that he could do this on the second reading of the resolutions which comes up Monday.

On the consideration of the report of the bill amending the Jurors' act, Mr. Williams introduced an amendment making the daily pay of jurors $3 instead of $2.

He was ruled out of order by the speaker, who held that such an amendment would have to originate from the government benches.

Hon. W. J. Bowser maintained that the citizen was bound to do jury duty and it was not contended that the $2 per day was to compensate him entirely for his time. It prevented an injustice being done the citizen in poor circumstances.

Stuart Henderson (Yale) pointed out the injustice which was done the jurymen in Yale. Some men had to come all the way from the 150-Mile House to Clinton for the assizes. Their board cost them more than the $2 allowed and their traveling expenses were 16 cents a mile as against the 10 cents allowed.

Civil Service Bill

Parker Williams (Newcastle) in continuing the debate upon the second reading of the Civil Service bill, announced his intention of moving an amendment to the amendment of John Jardine. With regard to the first sections of the bill he expressed himself as heartily in favor of the proposed qualifying examination scheme. He thought this would tend to increase the efficiency of the service. He trusted that there was provision made in the act to provide that appointments should be governed by these examinations and that it should no longer be necessary for the man who had passed his examination to pass the O. K. of some politician. He had no intention of opposing the proposal to make provision for the retirement of civil servants. He had always found the class as a whole civil and obliging in reverse proportion to the amount of the salary received. He took objection to the statements of the fourth member for Vancouver (Mr. Macgowan) who compared the plan with the annuity or pension schemes of large corporations. They adopted these schemes to safeguard themselves against strikes.

The C. P. R. had adopted this plan after the trackman's strike of a few years ago, when they found their system tied up from one end to the other. The B. C. Electric company's employees in this city had opposed the proposal when put to them and had refused to have anything to do with it.

Hoped for Old-Age Pensions

He had trusted that the government would have included in this scheme a general system of old-age pensions. The civil servant was exactly in the same position as any other wage-earner in the province. He worked under much better conditions than many classes, notably the coal miner. He pictured the dangers with which the coal miner was confronted in glowing terms. The civil servant was the servant of the rest of the inhabitants of the province and he asked if the servant should be entitled to more privileges than the master. He referred to the charges which had to be paid by the ordinary wage-earner to the insurance companies and there was no guarantee as to their solvency.

The proposal to extend a superannuation allowance to civil servants, reeked of that spirit of snobbery which held that one man's energies were better than another's, did not the sense of feeling lie as near the skin of the working man as that of the professional man.

He maintained that, in his estimation, the hide of the working man was more precious than the fat of priests.

The Ottawa government, he understood, had appointed a commission to consider an old-age pension scheme. This was merely another indication that an election was near at hand.

To provide the civil servants with a superannuation fund merely increased the privileged classes and rendered the day more distant when the worker would secure the same consideration. He instanced the case of certain churches where the ministers would collect the last nickle from a widow with half a dozen children. He had yet to hear of any one of these self same ministers advocating a general old-age pension scheme.

He asserted that a scheme which would be applicable to everybody in the province, which would make it impossible for an aged person to go hungry, would cost less than $200,000.

The acceptance of such a scheme would render the Conservative party much stronger with the people of the province that their sole reason now for persisting that they had done nothing very wrong in the last three years.

He presented an amendment providing for a general old-age pension. Upon the advice of the Speaker, he held this over until the amendment of Mr. Jardine had been voted upon.

John Oliver, Delta, moved the adjournment of the debate.

For Provincial Parks.

In moving the second reading of the bill an act to provide for the maintenance of provincial parks, Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton explained that the government proposed to set aside in different parts of the province lands to be used for park purposes, and to obtain under this bill the power to do everything which it might be necessary to do in connection with their control and management. (Hear, hear.) The system had worked well in other provinces, and it would undoubtedly be attended with the same results here. (Applause.) Boards would be appointed by the lieutenant-governor-in-council, and the members of these boards would be in every way responsible to the government and, while the government would vote a certain sum for the improvement of park reservations, in the majority of cases when these were handed over to localities the latter would be expected to look after them and to provide for the cost of their maintenance.

The bill was read the second time.

Canada Zinc Co. Bill

In moving the second reading of the bill to authorize the loan of $10,000 to the Canada Zinc Company.

Hon. Mr. McBride: in explaining the reasons why the government has seen fit to commend the provisions, which are contained in this bill, to the attention of the legislature, let me in the first place make it perfectly clear that the introduction of this kind of legislation is not to be considered as a precedent, which can hold out any encouragement whatever to the promoters of other industrial projects to come to the ministry for similar aid. (Hear, hear.) For I can quite conceive of all manner of applications being made to us if practices of this kind were to be encouraged, but there happens in this instance, however, to be a score of conditions which commend to the government of the day the proposal which is made in this bill, and these are to be found in the conditions which at the present time, concern the Kootenay country with regard to the treatment of ores that carry zinc mixed with galena. About two and a half years ago Mr. Robert Irving waited on me as minister of mines, and at some length outlined a plan of treating such ores in a practical way, with Prof. Snyder's electrical smelting process. Mr. Irving personally advanced a considerable sum of money to help towards the solution of this important problem, and the reason why he then approached the government was simply because if the experiments which were then on foot were to prove successful the result would inevitably be almost to revolutionize the conditions, which exist in the Kootenay country, as far as this class of ores is concerned, and this being the case, the project must certainly commend itself to the administration. (Hear, hear.) And in order to render such assistance as it was possible for us to give at the time, Mr. Robertson, the provincial mineralogist, was instructed to go to Vancouver and take some part in these experiments, and in this, Mr. Irving readily occurred. Now, sir, the result of the experiments, which were carried on at the time, and I may say that this experimental work was of a very extensive character indeed, was that the provincial mineralogist concurred in the belief that the experiment was a very practical one, which would eventually meet with success.

Mr. Irving, who was very zealous in his efforts, was fortunate enough to interest new friends in the scheme, and I believe that altogether some $55,000 or $60,000 have so far been advanced by private individuals in the endeavor to see how far they could go with the process. Now, it so happens that these persons have exhausted their private means, and they have given us the assurance, which from their reputation, I can readily accept, that it is impossible, under present conditions, to go any further with these important experiments, and they have asked me in view of the extraordinary condition that obtains at the present time, for a loan from the provincial government of $10,000 on a fair basis of arrangement. (Hear, hear.)

I have gone carefully into the matter, and, sir, with the counsel and advice of the different members from the Kootenay and may I say of the hon. the leader of the opposition, as well, (hear, hear), all of whom have throughout afforded every possble assistance, I felt that I was able to commend this matter to my colleagues, with the result, which is today, placed before the house in the shape of this bill. (Applause).

Technical Part.

Now, sir, a word or two with respect to the technical part of the proposition. I might explain to the house that the ores of the Slocan carry, as a rule, zinc in considerable quantities, associated with galena; while both ores carry silver. Further, the water and the magnetic separation of these ores is only partially successful. The lead concentrates obtained go to the existing lead smelter, just as soon as they are got into shape. But the zinc concentrates contain so much lead and iron, that no zinc smelter really wants them at all, unless they can get them at a very low price, which allows nothing whatever for the lead. These ores also carry about 25 oz. of silver to the ton; for which not over half its value is allowed by the smelter at the present time. This is, I believe, moreover a very conservative estimate, and these ores are now as a consequence of this condition of affairs practically worthless, because of the heavy penalties which are visited on their zinc constituents. The treatment of these ores by an improved method becomes as is evident in these circumstances, highly desirable. And this is the class of ore which through an electrical process of smelting, Mr. Irving and his colleagues have at the present time undertaken to handle, and this is the class of ore which will receive the benefit if the experiment now in question proves, as we hope it will prove, to be a success. It must further be borne in mind that if it be successful this electrical process of smelting these ores will not enter into competition with the other smelters which at present are in operation in British Columbia. And while there can be no question that this process is in the experimental stage, I am advised as I have already stated that the process gives every promise of complete success. (Applause). In fact, as it is viewed by Mr. Irving and his associates, as well as by their technical advisers, it is more than a possible, indeed, it is a probable, success; although of course various initial difficulties and a great many obstacles must be overcome. (Hear, hear).

At the present time I am advised that various electrical smelting processes are being tried in this department of work in various parts of the world, and that these have reached the stage where they may be looked upon as approaching the point of commercial success. The Swedish Dagbladet, a trade paper, makes on this most interesting subject the following statement: "Should the experiments which are now being carried on at Sala prove to be a definite success, a large portion of Sweden's now worthless zinc ores will with certainty be treated in the country itself and our exports will be increased to the extent of several million crowns."

The Snyder Process.

The process which Mr. Irving has undertaken to use for this particular purpose is the Snyder process, and in this relation I have been referred to a very eminent authority, Dr. Stansfield, the professor of metallurgy at McGill university, who in a book on "The Electric Furnace," just published, says:

"This furnace, the Snyder, has been described at length as being the first electric zinc furnace in which any rational attempt has been made to obtain zinc in the liquid state."

So that, Mr. Speaker, in addition to the testimony which we have right here at home in British Columbia, we have the authority of a man who certainly ranks very high indeed for the proficiency of the work which he has done at McGill to justify us in reaching the conviction that the experiment which is in process of perfection is one that contains within itself every possibility of being worked out to a practical conclusion. (Applause.)

Now, sir, I have found, in looking over the records of the mining office, that to a certain extent we have a precedent for what we are asking the house to do today, and this lies in the fact that some 20 years ago, in 1887, legislation was enacted providing for the construction of a mill for the treatment of ores in the Cariboo district in connection with the operations of the Island Mount Mining company in the endeavor to place the treatment of the ores which were then in question upon a satisfactory commercial basis. And there is, sir, the further fact that the Dominion government has, and somewhat recently, undertaken some very costly experiments at Sault Ste. Marie, where, under the direction of Mr. Templeman, the minister in charge, a large sum of money has has been spent, and, as I am further informed and am very glad to say, to very good purpose. (Hear, hear.) However, there is this difference between those instances and the case which is now before us that in the Island Mountain and the Soo experiments direct grants of money were made, while here all that these people are asking for is a loan. (Hear, hear.)

Justified by Circumstances.

I repeat that this is rather a dangerous type of legislation, but considering all the circumstances which surround this application, and keeping in mind the tremendous importance of the result to the great Okanagan region if this most interesting experiment should bring about the successful and prosperous treatment of these essentially valuable ores upon a thoroughly satisfactory and a commercial basis, hon. gentlemen can well have no hesitation whatever in supporting this proposition. (Applause.)

I again wish, sir, to thank particularly the hon. the leader of the opposition, Dr. Hunter, the member for Slocan, and Mr. Mackay, the member for Kaslo, as well as all the other gentlemen from the Okanagan country who have helped and encouraged this movement, and who have aided in bringing it into its present stage. (Hear, hear.) I have therefore, sir, great pleasure in moving that this bill be now read the second time. (Cheers.)

In answer to Mr. Jardine Hon. Mr. McBride said that a great many thousands of dollars had been expended in similar experimentation, while the reports in regard to their probable success were most encouraging. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Macdonald Supports

Mr. Macdonald (Rossland): While, sir, this class of legislation may be dangerous, and be looked upon as likely to give rise to disturbing results in the future in other directions, nevertheless when we consider the very great importance of the result which is aimed at in the present case, the application of the Canadian Zinc Company, I think there should be no hesitation whatever shown by the members of this house generally, in coming to the support of this bill. (Hear, hear.) We who are familiar with the conditions in Kootenay know this, that one of the great problems which confronts the mining company in the silver-lead district of Kootenay, has lain in the separation of the zinc from the zinc-lead ores, and in the treatment of these ores, which are to be found in combination with lead and zinc. For the process which is required to extract the lead is totally different from that which is necessary to extract the zinc. In the one case, the lead, the metal sinks to the bottom of the furnace and flows out, while in the case of the other, the zinc before the metal can be secured, it must first be vaporized, and then condensed. The one process seems to be the direct contradition of the other, and as the result, the silver-lead ores, which contain over 10 per cent. of zinc, when they are sent to the ordinary blasting furnace, must, owing to that percentage pass through a more expensive process than would otherwise be the case in order to get the lead extracted, while moreover from 10 to 15 and even 20 per cent. of the zinc is absolutely lost, a penalty of 50 per cent. for each extra percentage of zinc being in addition imposed. (Hear, hear.)

This shows, sir, the great importance of the process, which is now under consideration, and which is yet in the experimental stage, if it can by any possibility be made a success. (Hear, hear.) Zinc is, I believe, worth about double the value of lead per ton, and if both metals can be easily and at the same time profitably be saved by this process, it means the reopening of many mines, which are now idle in the Slocan. (Hear, hear.) There are in fact scores of these mines, which in that event would give employment to a very large number of miners, and realize a fair profit to their owners. (Applause.)

I consequently am confidently of the opinion, sir, that we are quite justified in the circumstances, in making this loan, and we might very well even go further and make a grant out and out of $10,000 to this company, but as they have not asked for it, of course this becomes unnecessary. (Applause.)

The bill was read the second time.

Crown Land Laws

In moving the second reading of the bill to amend and consolidate the laws affecting crown lands, Hon. Mr. Fulton explained that this bill was a very necessary consolidation rather than an amendment of existing statutes; while many of the proposed amendment were of a minor character section 37 dealt with such sales of land as had been made at Point Grey and at Hastings. It ran as follows:

All crown grants hereafter issued of lands, the right to which was acquired subsequent to the 17th day of April, 1896, shall contain a provision that in the event of any lands thereby granted being divided into town lots, one-fourth of all the blocks of lots shall be re-conveyed to the crown. The blocks to be so re-conveyed to the crown shall be ascertained as follows: The chief commissioner of lands and works shall first select one block and the owner three, and so on in turn, the chief commissioner selecting one and the owner three of the unchosen blocks until the division is made. Such crown grant shall be in the form No. 7 in the schedule hereto; provided, however, that the lieutenant-governor in council may provide that, when any lots, blocks of lots or lands belonging to the crown in or near any city or townsite are to be sold by public auction, such lots, blocks of lots or lands shall not be subject to the provisions of this section. It is further provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to the lands of the crown in the townsite of Hastings, North Vancouver and at Point Grey, sold by public auction before the first day of January, 1907, and the right of the crown to a reservation of one-fourth of the blocks of lots of said lands is hereby released and abandoned in cases in which crown grants have issued containing said reservations.

Said reservations at present surveyed lands could be purchased without limitations, while in the case of unsurveyed lands the purchaser was limited to 640 acres. In the future this limitation would be also applied to surveyed lands.

Reservation Question.

Sec. 48 dealt with timber lands, which were now under reservation, and he might say that this reservation would remain in force until the government had decided upon a sound, wise and definite policy in respect to them. He hoped that this decision would be reached by next session.

Hand Loggers' Licenses.

Sec. 59 dealt with hand loggers' licenses, which had in the past occasioned a good deal of trouble to the department, as they had been granted without restrictions and were operative in any part of the province. In many parts in the north however the timber was too sparse to be taken up under the regular timber license, and as they did not wish to do away with this $10 license altogether, owing to the fact that many mills depended upon this source of supply for their logs, they had limited the district in which in the future these licenses would be operative.

Sec. 59 is as follows:

(1) In addition to the special licenses authorized by section 53 of this act, and notwithstanding the reserve placed upon timber by order in council dated 24th December, 1907, the chief commissioner of lands and works may, upon payment of the sum of fifty dollars therefor, grant a general license to any person to cut timber from such crown lands, not being timber limits, situate on the mainland of British Columba, and north of an imaginery line drawn east and west from Rivers inlet, and west of the 127th meridian, and within such area as may be specified or designated in such license; but such license shall be personal, and shall only grant authority to the person named therein to cut timber as a hand-logger, and such license shall be in force for one year from the date thereof, and no longer. C.A. 1888, c. 66, s. 70.

(2) The holder of a license granted under this section shall not use steam power, or machinery operated by steam power, in carrying on lumbering operations under such license.

(3) Any person being the holder of a license granted under this section, who shall violate the provisions of the preceding subsection hereof, shall be liable, on summary conviction before a stipendiary magistrate, to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars. 1906, c. 24, s. 15.

Indian Reserve

Section 79 dealt with Indian reserves. In many cases at the present time the Indians were in possession of more land than they actually used, and as white settlers could often utilize this land very advantageously power was taken to acquire the interest of the province in such excess in these reserves where this was deemed advisable, and have these lands brought into profitable use. (Applause.)

In reply to Mr. Brewster (Alberni), who feared lest the provisions contained in section 59 would affect unfavorably mill operations on the west coast of Vancouver island, Hon. Mr. Fulton stated that only such mills as were situated north of Rivers inlet on the mainland would be seriously affected by the change in the law.

Mr. Brewster: I am very much afraid, however, that a number of mills on the west coast of the island will be also seriously affected.

Mr. Oliver (Delta) moved the adjournment of the debate.

Rock Bay Lands

The second reading of the bill to authorize the grant to the city of Victoria of certain lands situated in Rock Bay, Victoria harbor, took place.

The chief commissioner explained that at last session the legislature had passed an act empowering the government to grant the lands at the northerly inlet to the city upon certain conditions. The lands had not yet been made over to the corporation, but negotiations were still in progress. They now sought power to make over to the city the lands at the easterly inlet. The latter were nearly an acre in extent.

Bulkley Valley Surveys

The second reading of the bill to make the maps compiled from the recent surveys of different sections in the Bulkley valley, the official ones then took place.

The chief commissioner explained that the recent surveys showed that the first surveys were at fault.

G. R. Naden (Greenwood) pointed out that by the change some of the first settlers in the valley might be deprived of their holdings for others less valuable. He thought provision ought to be made to permit of their retaining their holdings whatever their numbers on the official maps might be.

John Oliver spoke to the same effect and J. A. Macdonald thought that the members should be shown the new and old maps of the district and an estimate given them of the variation. This will be done when the bill reaches committee.

Hon. F. J. Fulton expressed the opinion that the consideration asked for might be given the settlers under the amendments to the land act now before the house.

Bill Is Discharged

Hon. W. J. Bowser moved that the second reading of the bill to amend the Succession Duty act be discharged. A number of amendments had been proposed by the finance minister and a new bill would be brought down by special message.

The house adjourned at 6 p. m.

Welcome Hotel, Vancouver.

In reply to Parker Williams' questions regarding the Welcome hotel, Vancouver, Hon. R. G. Tatlow stated it differed from other hotels in the fact that no charges are made to those in absolute need of food and shelter. One story is provided exclusively for immigrants, another for the very poor. Cheap accommodation is provided for workingmen seeking employment. It is also a free labor bureau, through which 1,217 situations were found last year. Prisoners on suspended sentence are cared for and work found for them when possible.

The charge for rooms was 15 to 35 cents per night.

Since last June 256 free beds, 270 free meals, 148 free garments have been supplied. There is absolutely no profit from the institution.

Notices of Motion.

On Monday next Hon. Mr. McBride will ask leave to introduce a bill entitled An Act to Amend the Placer Mining act.

Mr. Munro on Tuesday next will ask the following questions of the chief commissioner of lands and works:

1. Who was caretaker on Matsqui Dyke from October 1, 1906, to September 30 1907? 2. What salary was paid to caretaker for said period?

Hon. Mr. Bowser will move in committee of the whole on bill (No. 72) entitled An Act to Amend the Settled Estates act, to strike out the words "any encumbrancer" in the ninth line, and insert in lieu thereof the words "all encumbrancers."

Hon Mr. Cotton will move in committee of the whole on bill (No. 40) entitled An Act to Provide for the maintenance of Provincial Parks, to add the following sub-section to section 17. 2. Subject to the approval of the lieutenant-governor in council, the board may lease any portion of a provincial park which it has power to manage under the provisions of this act to any athletic club or association, to be used for the purposes of said club or association.

Mr. McInnis will move on second reading of resolutions from committee of supply, that vote No. 236, in aid of militia, be struck out.

Money for Winnipeg

Winnipeg, Feb. 28.—Members of the city council at an informal session yesterday afternoon unanimously agreed to accept a proposition presented by Controller Evans and Alderman Riley as a result of their trip to Montreal, by which the Bank of Montreal will finance the city. The bank offers to place £1,500,000 of city securities in the London market. The proceeds from the sale of those securities, will clean up the outstanding current liabilities, provide for new work and give the city at least $1,000,000 in cash to put back into the sinking fund. The bank agrees also to allow an overdraft of $2,000,000, if necessary, within the next five months.

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