## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Fifth Parliament—Fourth Session.

### THIRTY-SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, March 26, 1890.

The Speaker took the chair at 2:10 p. m.

Prayers by Rev. Dr. Reid.

RETURN.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented a return of correspondence in connection with the proposed exchange of lands in the Railway Belt for lands in the Peace River District.

READ AND RECEIVED.

The miners' petition, in the exclusion of Chinese from the mines, was read and on motion received, and ordered printed.

NOTICE NECESSARY.

Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the report recently presented by the select committee in reference to Samuel Greer's claim.

The Speaker informed the hon. member for Lillooet that his motion required two days' notice.

THE ESTIMATE DEBATE.

Upon the resumption of the debate upon the motion that the Speaker leave the chair and the House go into committee of supply, Hon. Mr. Robson said that he was sorry that the hon. member for Cassiar was not in his place as he wished to give some attention to the remarks made by him in the early part of the debate. That hon. gentleman should certainly rank as a high authority on the subject of finance in this province, inasmuch as, in his capacity as head of the municipal council of Victoria, he had had to some extent the management of the corporation finances in his hands. The gentlemen who had read the able letters recently published in a city newspaper upon the subject of civic finances would, without doubt, admit that that hon. gentleman should rank as a high authority. He was surprised to hear the remarks made by the hon. member for Cassiar after the terrible exposure he had been made of the way the city finances had been handled. The hon. member for Cassiar had, however, had very little in reality to say against the government or his financial or any other statements. The speech in the main could be taken as an endorsation of the policy of the present government throughout. When he did enter into particulars his remarks were most unfortunate. He had referred to the great disparity that existed between the estimated and the actual revenue, and the estimated and actual expenditure under certain heads. The administration of justice had been cited as an important illustration. Under this head the expenditure had exceeded the estimate by several thousands of dollars, and the hon. member for Cassiar had undertaken to censure the government for such a blunder in their estimates. That hon. gentleman could not but understand perfectly the impossibility of any government, or any finance minister, accurately estimating the expenditure under this head, when it was well-nigh impossible that no government or minister could anticipate or control. On looking at the estimates it would be found that almost the entire amount of excess of expenditure under this head was caused by what might be dignified by the name of an Indian rebellion. Surely this Indian trouble could not have been anticipated by the minister of finance; he could not have anticipated the difficulty on the Skeena, which was certainly an emergency that called for immediate and effectual action. It had been promptly and effectively dealt with, and on lines that were eminently satisfactory to the province. The hon. member for Cassiar showed great want of judgment in selecting this particular item with which to strike his heaviest blow. He (Hon. Mr. Robson) was bound to believe that the hon. gentleman spoke without thinking; as he often did, or he would have pointed out other instances of excess of expenditure over the estimates—notably, the McLean difficulty. If he had reflected for a moment he would have seen the weakness of the ground he took. If he could have shown that any part of the expenditure had not been justified, he would have been perfectly right in taking the ground he had. He had not, however, attempted to show that one single dollar had been unnecessarily, injudiciously or improperly expended. Then with uplifted hands he had exclaimed that the amount of revenue set apart for public works was continually diminishing, and that now, it dwindled down to a most insignificant and unsatisfactory amount. By reference to the financial statements for 1881 it would be found that the amount available for that year was $86,000, public works receiving about 21 per cent. of the entire revenue. Now $400,000 was the sum in hand, nearly 50 per cent. of the entire revenue. The proportion available now was more than double what it was in 1881, under the administration of the hon. gentleman who was now leading the opposition. Herein was a very complete and satisfactory answer to the public—if they required an answer. He (Hon. Mr. Robson) would not say that the hon. member for Cassiar had uttered untruths; he had certainly made erroneous statements, statements that could not be borne out by facts. There was one true statement that had fallen from the lips of the hon. member for Cassiar. He (Hon. Mr. Robson) had taken it down at the time. The member for Cassiar had said that "if all the lands were sold we would have none left to sell." This was one brilliant truth to be extracted from a long and windy speech. It was unquestionably a fact. In making the remark the hon. member for Cassiar had undertaken to condemn the government's method of dealing with public lands. Holding Crown lands and boasting of them as provincial assets was a very mistaken idea. The true and beneficial policy was to let the lands pass into private hands as quickly as possible, in the interests of those who would till them and develop them by increasing their productiveness, making them more valuable to the province. The policy of the government for above seven years in regard to Crown lands had been a wise and beneficial one; he (Hon. Mr. Robson) would be glad to see more lands pass into private hands. As soon as they were disposed of they became revenue producing, either through the wild land tax or through their cultivation and taxation. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Grant) had laid great stress upon the matter of the so-called school tax, or the contribution levied upon the four cities in which high schools were located, to assist in the maintenance of the additional feature of education; he had characterized the tax in strong language as unjust, uncourteous, iniquitous and monstrous. The hon. member for Cassiar was not only a great authority on finance, but also an equally great authority on constitutional law. He informed the city council of Victoria that, in his opinion, the law was absolutely unconstitutional, and accepting him as an authority upon what constituted the law, the city refused to pay the tax and the matter went into the courts, where the judges endorsed the measure in every way as constitutional, equitable, fair and proper in every way. The hon. member for Cassiar had expected to win public favor by his action and advice upon the question of this school tax. It was easy to excite public opposition to any legislation in the form of taxation; and the hon. gentleman, knowing the weakness of human nature in this respect, had attempted to profit by it by creating a feeling of opposition to the government and sympathy with himself. Not only was his plan knocked over by the courts, however, but he had taken pains to dissipate the sympathy of the people of Victoria. The Victoria school tax had to be paid every year, it was supposed, to load them, as was shown by the re-election of the Attorney-General when this school tax cry formed almost the only stock in trade of the opposition candidate. All that the opposition candidate had to say was upon this subject, and he said enough to prove that he knew very little at all about it. What was the result? The hon. Attorney-General had been returned by an overwhelming majority, showing that the "iniquitous tax" cry had not taken hold upon the hearts and intellects of the people of Victoria. If any people in the province had had a right to complain of this special assessment for educational purposes it was the people of Vancouver, but they had without condition said that the even below they paid as their share, that Westminster had raised objections, probably because Victoria did, but wiser counsel ultimately prevailed, and New Westminster fell gracefully into line. Nanaimo had not yet fallen into line, although they had not really proved that they had any cause to object. The real difficulty with Nanaimo was that the municipal revenue was so small that the school contribution by comparison with it looked a very big sum. The corporation revenue was too small; it would be in the interest of Nanaimo to put up the assessment, thereby increasing the credit of the city and giving them more money to expend in much needed improvements. When Nanaimo's assessment roll was put up to what it should be there would be no complaint from Nanaimo. The hon. gentleman had referred to the quartz exploitation works, the general drift of his remarks being that they were not a success. (Mr. Semlin—Oh, no.) Yes. That was the general tone of the remarks made. Unfortunately the works had been burned down; it was almost a calamity that they were. To say that they were not a success while they were in operation was, however, transgressing the bounds of truth. They did, until the time of their destruction, fully answer all the purposes for which they were created. They demonstrated that the refractory ores of British Columbia could be treated successfully and profitably treated. Take the Black Jack mine for example. The Black Jack company had worked their mine right along and sent their ore to the reduction works to be treated. What was the result? Taking the expenses of the mine throughout until the yellow bar of beautiful gold, which many hon. members had doubtless seen, was produced, the test not only demonstrated the success of the ship from the mine to the furnace, but also the expense of prospecting. This was a remarkable thing; men without capital had been able to take the rock from their claim and have it satisfactorily treated without expense; thereby establishing the important principle that the poor man could develop his own claim, his own mine, up to the point when it was to be proved worthless or paying. If the latter, they could then and in getting capital enlisted to complete the development. The great difficulty in the past had been to secure capital for a start; now capital was unnecessary until it was ascertained whether or not the mine was a good one. The real point of primary importance was that the reduction works placed within the reach of the mine owners the means of testing their mines without borrowing capital, and without expense. The hon. members from Cariboo would be found to endorse all he had said in regard to the Black Jack; and if one experiment had proved so well, others would also. The reduction works in Cariboo had fulfilled the most sanguine expectations of everyone; and abundantly answered the purposes for which they were constructed. Adverting to the speech of the hon. leader of the Opposition (Mr. Davie), the gentleman had intimated that in the speech placed in the hands of the Lieut.-Governor at the opening of the House a statement had been made that was not true. In that speech it was said that the country was in a healthy growth in almost every source of revenue. The hon. leader of the Opposition had left out the "almost" in his remarks. He (Hon. Mr. Robson) contended that the statement made in the speech was entirely true, and most effectually proved his contention by comparing the various items of revenue in personal property tax, land sales, registration fees, Chinese immigration fees, etc. The portion of the speech quoted was neither untrue nor misleading in any particular, and the hon. leader of the opposition should not have so far forgotten himself as to insinuate that any government would placed a false or misleading speech in the hands of the Lieut.-Governor. No hon. gentleman would ever gain popularity for himself or his party by such misrepresentation.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—You should remember that yourself.

Hon. Mr. Robson—What do you mean by that?

Hon. Mr. Beaven—What you're saying now is untrue.

Hon. Mr. Robson—Name anything that I have said that is not strictly true.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—I will do so when my opportunity comes to follow you.

Hon. Mr. Robson, continuing, said that the address of the leader of the opposition had been one of the most illnatured and acrimonious speeches he had ever listened to. Taking from it the personal abuse it contained, nothing would be left. The burden of the hon. gentleman's lamentation had been that there was a large surplus of revenue over the estimate. That was generally one thing that a government plumed itself upon. It was the ambition of the leader of the opposition when he was in power to have a little surplus. He used to pride his little soul, while he sat in his little office, upon a possibility of a surplus. Of course his surpluses were in accordance with his general playfulish policy, but this great statesman was never so happy as when by starving the settlers and neglecting the public necessities in the shape of roads, etc., he could have a little surplus at the end of the year. If the hon. gentleman, who used to glory in the little surpluses he was able to produce in his cheese-paring way, had been on the government side of the House this year he would have rejoiced at this splendid showing of revenue over estimates; as he was in the cold shades of the opposition he deplored the fact that the showing made by the government was a good one. He (Hon. Mr. Beaven) was the very opposite in opposition to what he was in power. Something had been said about the contract system, and the government had been charged with disregarding the spirit of the statute in this matter. The leader of the opposition had also insinuated that the government always managed to get their parties working on the roads by day labor about election time; inferring that the large expenditure of money and the number of men employed could be utilized in procuring votes. The construction of the graving dock had also been touched upon. When the hon. leader of the opposition and his colleagues had had the handling of this work in hand they had driven the contractors mercilessly and cruelly to the wall. It was a singular coincidence,—of course it was only a coincidence, not studied at all,—but those contracts were driven out just before the election, and a whole crowd of voters were given work on the dock. Comparing the cost of various items of the dock work, under the contract and the day work systems, Hon. Mr. Robson showed that for quarrying, etc., $1 was paid under the former as against $2.46 by day labor; excavating, etc., by contract cost $3.66, under day labor $6.53; concrete, per yard, was as before $5 as against $11.34; arterial drains 40 and 50 cents per foot by contract of $2.32 by day labor. These figures would show what he was about to say—that the government, led by the hon. gentleman opposite, had deliberately paid two prices to workmen who had votes just on the eve of a general election. He did not say that the government had any such intention in so doing—it was merely a singular coincidence. Not for one moment would he suggest that the move was studied or deliberately planned. The hon. gentlemen (Hon. Mr. Beaven) had named the system which was in vogue at the dock after coming into power. It was true in a sense. One of the first things that the present government did on assuming power was to transfer to the Dominion government the dock and apply for a return to the province of all monies expended in the construction work. It would have been manifestly unwise while the government was in connection with the transfer to the Dominion of the dock, and the return to the province of money expended thereon was pending to have discussed the question of day labor. The hon. leader of the opposition had made quite lamentation. There was a large amount of money coming into the province, and as that hon. gentleman did not take a broad view of any question he naturally objected to so small a share of the large volume of revenue flowing in which he, in the opposition, could have no opportunity of handling. No matter where a person was in politics he should be glad to see the country prospering; the efforts of a useful and rightly constituted opposition should be devoted to forcing or aiding the government in directing affairs to serve the best interests of the province. It was an unhappy sight when a statesman (?) fell to the level where he could only carp and grumble because money was coming in in abundance to the provincial coffers and the country was prospering. A live, energetic, high-minded opposition was useful; but when the opposition degenerated to mere fault-finders because the government administered affairs in a proper, judicious and liberal-minded manner and brought the country whose affairs they were in the direction of to the flood tide of prosperity; the less that was said of them the better. The leader of the opposition compared the land sales of to-day with the sales when he was at the head of affairs. Of course the sales had increased; settlers did not want to make their homes in a country presided over by men who lent no assistance to developing the country, and whose policy was essentially a pleasure, cheese-paring one of false economy. Now the settlers and the capitalists were coming in; and the road-maker and the schoolmaster followed close in their footsteps. During the regime of the now leader of the opposition the lands had no attractions to present to either capitalist or settler. Now when that hon. gentleman (Mr. Beaven) heard the surging of the great wave of prosperity that was sweeping over the land he did not throw up his cap, but simply sat and carped and grumbled at the government that had made the country prosper. In reference to what had been said by the Hon. leader of the opposition in regard to the lands and works department: That hon. gentleman had said that no one could get anything from the department unless he was a supporter of the government. When the hon. gentleman himself had held the portfolio of chief commissioner of lands and works it was a common saying that if a settler differing from the government in politics came to him with any request he would gaze at him in surprise as he enquired, "What right have you to ask for anything; you're not on our side." Now when the hon. gentleman took his (Hon. Mr. Robson's) place in the country and saw respectable and intelligent men working upon the roads he naturally imagined from their appearance that they were government supporters. Of course these men were friends of the government, because the very great majority of the people of British Columbia were; if more government supporters were to be found on the public works than supporters of the opposition it was because the majority of government men was everywhere so great. The leader of the opposition had dwelt upon the smallness of the appropriations for next year. The government had a good sum for next year; but they had placed a large part of it upon the supplementary estimates so that it could be expended during the present fiscal year. The hon. gentleman opposite chose to ignore the supplementaries altogether and deal only with the estimates in chief. Technically there was over $200,000 provided for next year; practically the amount was $400,000. It was fair, and nothing more than fair, to take both the supplementaries and the estimates in chief as they were laid before the House, with the explanation accompanying them. The electors would understand and appreciate what had been done. It was their wish that a large portion of the appropriation be spent early in the year, when the most good could be done. Without changing the fiscal year, as had been suggested, the same results had in this manner been accomplished. Coming to his own department, the leader of the opposition had been kind enough to let him off very easily. It was through the Education Department that he was struck at. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Beaven) had been kind enough to say that he (the premier) attended to the duties of his department. He was, however, ungenerous enough to say that it was because he had no private office to go to. He had no office down town, but he had a home only a short distance away, and had he any disposition to shirk his work, he would be more disposed to spend his time there. It was very ungenerous and small to qualify the compliment as the leader of the opposition had. In making his great stab at the Education Department the leader of the opposition said that that department had been turned into a political machine, and everyone who would advance under that department was forced to become a lickspittle, a sycophant of the lowest order. He (the premier) denied, and he challenged the contradiction of his statement, that he had ever attempted to bring political pressure to bear through the Education Department. There was no teacher, man nor woman, who could say that he had. One of the first acts of the present government was to restore the rights of citizenship to the teachers who had been disfranchised by the government of which Hon. Mr. Beaven was a member. But while the government had enfranchised the school teachers he strongly disapproved of their becoming political partisans. The reasons were obvious why they should not take an active part either in support of or in opposition to the government. One of his first acts on assuming control of the department, in selecting a superintendent, was to appoint a gentleman who, while always opposed to him in politics, he considered eminently qualified for the position. He had never attempted nor suggested to that gentleman to change his political views, but had informed him as well as the other officers of the department that he did not approve of teachers becoming political partizans. Again, exactly the same course had been pursued when it had been found necessary to secure an inspector of schools. In neither case political considerations had entered into the question; the gentlemen had been secured simply because they had been deemed well fitted for the positions that they held. The opposition to-day were engaged in manipulating a political crank, trying to strike him (Hon. Mr. Robson), while at the same time injuring the educational system of the province. He defied anyone to bring one particle of proof that he had ever attempted to put the political thumb-screws on any one. In another part of his address the hon. leader of the opposition had, broadly, said that the whole electorate had been bribed with their own money. Could he offer any greater insult to the electors of British Columbia? How were they alleged to have been bribed? By the construction of roads, bridges, schoolhouses, etc., where they were necessary to advance the prosperity of the country? Was there any truth in the charge? Was the money well spent? Was it not true that the expenditure had added immensely to the value of the land, which was increased by roads, bridges, and other public improvements, or by the influx of population, till now the interest increased? The capital of the country was not parted with by land sales, but judiciously invested. The lands were assets, but until they left the hands of the government they were, financially speaking, idle or useless assets, bringing no return or interest. When sold or settled upon they at once became revenue producing, so it is incorrect to say that the country was parting with its capital when its public lands were sold. It was doing just the contrary, it was utilizing its capital. A very large proportion of the land sold was not agricultural land, but pastoral, timber, coal, prospecting and mineral claims, none of which in any way effected the question of settlement for agricultural purposes. It was very improper for the opposition to attempt to mislead the country as they had in this matter. They should take a broader view of public questions. (A member—Try to elevate their "tone.") They should attempt to reach a higher level. One matter that had been well referred to by the leader of the government was in regard to the remarks made by the leader of the opposition to the effect that the electors were to be bribed with their own money by the present government. He (Hon. Mr. Vernon) had never thought that any hon. member in the House would make use of such an expression. In 1875 when the general elections were pending the government, in which the leader of the opposition had filled the position of chief commissioner, had been remarkably eager to give out certain large contracts, for very considerable sums, on the Fraser. The government were so eager to have the work done just then, when men could be given work before the general election, that they laid out roads in the snow. Notwithstanding their efforts to catch a majority the government had been defeated; the electors took a higher view of the questions of the day than to be influenced by the expenditure of a few dollars in their neighborhood. The broad accusation of the leader of the opposition was an insult to the whole electorate, and it would be resented by the electors when the time came. Unfortunately by his tirade the leader of the opposition had spoiled the reputation that he had enjoyed for courtesy in debate. It was not right either, for him or for any hon. gentleman to attack single members of the government. Let him or them attack the government as a whole, and they stand or fall by the acts of its members. The opposition were respectfully advised to consolidate their attack; to form some policy that might appear to them to be superior to the policy of the present government instead of indulging in personal attacks upon individual members of the government, which seemed to form the principal part of their stock in trade. The government only claimed the credit for the increasing prosperity of the country that was rightly their due. He felt assured that the people were quite satisfied with the present conduct of affairs, and that they would not be likely to transfer the support they had been giving to the government for the past few years to a party like the opposition, who had advanced no policy of any description or proved in any way competent to handle the affairs of this country. They had not done its duty and been instrumental in advancing the prosperity of the country, despite the gloomy prophecies of the members of the opposition. (Applause.)

Mr. Mason took pleasure in complimenting the hon. finance minister upon his budget speech and upon his satisfactory showing, for in spite of what the hon. leader of the opposition and the hon. member for Cassiar had said to the contrary, the fact still remained and the showing spoke for itself—the country was prospering. He did not intend to take up the time of the House, but he wished to refer to vote 176 in the estimates. This vote was the most important one in the estimates. He hoped to see surveys made and maps and books of information distributed broadcast for the benefit of intending settlers; for it was well known that settlers who came to this country with the intention of making their homes upon the lower mainland and Vancouver Island go over to the American side simply on account of the lack of information obtainable in regard to British Columbia. This would be prevented in a great measure by this wise move of the government. He hoped to see parties started out in different directions; and thought the larger share of this vote should be spent upon the lower Mainland and Vancouver Island for the first year or two at any rate. But he also thought that small parties should be started on the upper Mainland. Mr. Vernon was certainly right in so see a small party start from the Bute, up the Homathko across the Chilcotin to the Fraser, and was satisfied it would result in great good, not only to those who intend going there, but to those already there, for it would enable them, if they so wished, to drive their cattle out that way, or get in their supplies. The hon. member for Cassiar, in his remarks on Wednesday, had stated that he thought the reduction works should not have been built where they were. Now, that hon. gentleman was one of the prime movers in getting a committee of enquiry upon this very subject, and what was the result? Let any fair-minded man read the reports. They were on record, and he (Mr. Mason) thought he could not help but say that everything redounded to the credit of the government. Those who had instigated the investigation were completely squelched." The hon. gentleman had further stated that he regretted the destruction of the works; and in that he was sincere,—in fact all regretted their loss by fire, and no one more than himself. It could not be helped now, and he was satified that it was purely accidental and no one was to blame. What was wanted now was to have the works rebuilt, and he would ask this government to grant a further appropriation out of the quartz vote—say $50,000 for the purpose. It might not be required, but if it was not needed it would not be used. He (Mr. Mason) thought the roasting capacity should be increased. It would add greatly to the usefulness of the works; for we had every reason to believe that the works would be kept busy and self-sustaining when they were completed, should this House see fit to rebuild them, which he hoped and trusted they would, not only in the interest of the district which he had the honor of representing, but of the entire province. The success of quartz mining meant very considerable to the lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. (Applause.)

Colonel Baker said he should like to make a few remarks on some of the accusations the leader of the opposition had made against the government. The honorable gentleman had said that the government maintained iniquitous land laws which tended to encourage land speculators to the detriment of the poor settler, and that in consequence the latter was driven out of British Columbia and took refuge in Washington Territory. Now, he agreed with the honorable gentleman so far as this, that it was a fact that many intending settlers did leave this country for Washington, but he entirely denied that the cause of this exodus was the iniquity of our land laws. On the contrary, our land laws were excellent and far more liberal that those of Washington, where a settler was limited to 160 acres, while in this country he could pre-empt 320 acres east of the Cascades. What was the cause then of the exodus of settlers from this country? It was the fault of them in his progress. After many difficulties he finds himself in one of the many beautiful valleys in the interior of our province. He does not like it, he moves on till he has introduced into the wilderness quite a large portion of the Dominion government. Towns and villages were springing up all along the river, and the industries of the land and river were rapidly being developed. The history of the Fraser reflected very little credit on the federal government, and, fully endorsing the resolution, he would do his utmost to force the attention of the Dominion government to be directed to it.

Mr. Orr supported the resolution, and referred to the attempts which he had made in the past to induce the government to improve the navigation of the Fraser. He hoped the government would press the matter as firmly as possible.

Mr. Ladner thought that attention should be directed to the delays to mails and passengers to and from Victoria caused by the absence of a proper light at the sand heads. The snag boat lying at Westminster could also, he thought, be employed to replace the buoys whenever necessary; while all would admit the great benefit to ships having made long ocean trips of coming into fresh water to load, their bottoms being cleaned by the fresh water.

Mr. Croft considered the Fraser the finest river on the Pacific coast, and condemned the policy of the Dominion Government in regard to the Fraser as curiously short-sighted. He directed the attention of members to the works that had been done on the Columbia and on the Mississippi, and hoped that such representations would be made at Ottawa as would induce the Federal government to no longer neglect the mighty Fraser.

Mr. Semlin, while supporting the resolution, advised that no reference be made to the employment of naval officers in making the surveys; Canada had capable engineers under the government employ.

Hon. Mr. Robson explained that the practice of obtaining the talent of naval surveyors was a common and proper one; they understood the work better than other engineers would do.

The resolution carried.

THE ESTIMATES.

Mr. Cunningham, in resuming the debate upon the estimates, regretted that the premier was not in his able speech, and the prosperity of the country generally. The expenditures had been wisely made (Mr. Ladner—Hear, hear). It was very unfair to attack the government because their revenue exceeded the estimates; if this was the only flaw in their armor they were fortunate. Not one suggestion as to how the government was to improve its policy had been advanced by the opposition, whose policy, it was to propose improvements. The government had been accused of tyranny and oppression, but he challenged anyone to produce any witness before the committee now investigating the charges, to substantiation of this charge. The hon. member for Yale had insulted all school teachers by saying that they were as much slaves as the down-trodden Poles. He was disappointed that the Attorney-General formulated no policy with which to go before the electors; the present government had done more than any previous one for the country; and he advised them to be possible boys—to place the money at dollars at a low rate of interest and expend it in the construction of roads and bridges in the agricultural districts. Agriculture more than any other industry required development in British Columbia. He would like to take the place in the world which her natural advantages entitled her to.

Mr. Ladner expressed his everlasting gratitude to the last speaker for his reference to the wants of roads in New Westminster district. On taking up the estimates he, as well as every other member of the House, was pleased to note the increase of revenue. The government was responsible for the prosperity of the country in any way; a wave of prosperity was coming northward and had just about struck British Columbia. Then the construction of the C.P.R. had also had a healthy effect naturally. Westminster district was the most sadly neglected and badly abused in the estimates. Her expenditure was $21,000 for roads and bridges, while she contributed $163,000 to the provincial revenue. Yale, Kamloops, Lillooet and Comox districts contributed less than $63,500, and they received fully that sum. Until roads and bridges were constructed in New Westminster district it could not prosper as it should; people would not go out of the province for what could very easily be produced therein. The appropriation was insignificantly small for New Westminster district, considering its importance and necessities. Improvements in that district, Surveys were very necessary for British Columbia, they should have been made long ago; but he hoped that before the surveys were made and settlers were brought in, roads would be constructed to make the country habitable. The remarks made by the leader of the opposition had not been imperially dealt with. In the whole, New Westminster district had received over $250,000 in the estimates, and yet the hon. member who represented that district claimed that it had been unfairly dealt with. It seemed like attacks like from the opposition benches that caused the people of the province not to respect the opposition. It was such attacks that induced the people to pronounce their verdict that the present members of the opposition were not capable of forming the policy of a government or directing a country's affairs. The leader of the opposition—notwithstanding the fact that his followers were divided, and each followed an independent line of his own, he must still be regarded as the leader—had accused the government of bribing the electors with their own money. Could a greater insult have been offered to the electors? To say that they would accept bribes was to say that they were incapable of exercising the franchise. He wished to bring this statement home to the leader of the opposition, as the electors would hear of it, and they would have something to say about it at the next election. The leader of the opposition had failed to find a vulnerable point in which he could strike the government, and he had used such language as had surprised him. (Hon. Mr. Pooley) and which might have only been expected from some unfortunate at the street corners. However, he (Hon. Mr. Pooley) had not lost his self-respect, and he pronounced the remarks of the opposition leader in very bad taste. The government were placed where they were by the people; they did not make themselves, and they would have to return to the people again at an early date. The present government wanted the intelligent men of the province to understand and investigate all their acts; all that they did was fair, open and above board. If the leader of the opposition could point to one dishonorable or discreditable act, let him come forward and do so. (Cheers.)

Mr. Orr said that the discussion of the estimates afforded a sort of political Donny brook, when the private history of almost everyone, from Julius Cesar to Parnell, was discussed. He thereupon entered upon a criticism of government acts, and in the course of his speech said that he had been informed members of the present government were largely interested in the timber milling industry in the province.

Hon. Mr. Robson—Name! Name!

Mr. Orr. attempted to proceed, and Hon. Mr. Robson continued to call for the name of the member of the government whom he accused. Mr. Orr finally said that he had heard that the premier himself was interested.

Hon. Mr. Robson denied the charge and pronounced the insinuation of the member for Westminster district cowardly and unjustifiable.

Mr. Orr said that he was not speaking from any personal knowledge; simply from what he had heard.

Hon. Mr. Robson—If you accept everything you hear in the company you keep as true, you will have a strange array of facts.

Mr. Orr in closing his remarks referred to Mr. Cunningham's eulogy of the government and particularly of the premier, of whom nothing too good could be said. He could remember when Mr. Cunningham could find no language too black with which to paint that same hon. gentleman.

Mr. Cunningham denied having ever been an enemy to Mr. Robson.

Hon. Mr. Robson said that he had known Mr. Cunningham for thirty years, and he had always been one of his warm personal friends.

Hon. Mr. Beaven—As explanations were in order, said that he wished to deny in toto the statement of the president of the council that he had said that the electors of British Columbia were unfit to exercise the franchise.

Hon. Mr. Robson—You said it by logical deduction.

Mr. Haslam addressed the House upon the policy of the government in dealing with the timber industry, and on motion of Messrs. Duck and Thomson the debate was adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

The House rose at 5:40 p. m., to sit again Monday.


## Scaly Skin Diseases.

**Psoriasis 3 years, covering face, head, and entire body with white scales, skin red, itchy and bleeding. Hair all gone. Spent hundreds of dollars. Pronounced incurable. Cured by Cuticura Remedies.**

## Cured by Cuticura

My disease (psoriasis) first broke out on my left cheek, spreading across my nose, and almost covering my face. It ran into my eyes, and the physician was afraid I would lose my eyesight altogether. It spread all over my head, and my hair all fell out, until it was entirely bald-headed; it then broke out on my arms and shoulders, until my arms were just one sore. It covered my entire body, my face, hand, and shoulders being the worst. The white scabs fell constantly from my head, shoulders, and arms; the skin would thicken and be red and very itchy, and would crack and bleed if scratched. After spending many hundreds of dollars, I was pronounced hopeless by heads of the CUTICURA REMEDIES, and after using two bottles of CUTICURA RESOLVENT, one box of CUTICURA and one cake of CUTICURA SOAP, I was cured of the dreadful disease from which I had suffered for 3 years. I thought the disease would leave a very deep scar, but the CUTICURA REMEDIES cured it almost, leaving any scar. Yours, etc., (Signed) W. H. Wormfold, curator and librarian, committee—James Deveereaux, Capt. Devereaux, Fielding. The attendance at the meeting last evening was most encouraging, and the preliminary discussion of objects for the encouragement of the society was formed an adjournment was taken for one week.

**The R. C. Southern.**

Mr. D. C. Corbin, of New Yo[rk] resident, and Mr. A. A. Newb[ury] Spokane Falls, vice-president Spokane Falls and Northern o[r] Southern Railways, are at pre[sent] in the city. Mr. Corbin is also appointed at the defeat of the b[ill] lating to the construction of th[e] in the Railway Committee at [illegible] and states that he regrets not [illegible] been afforded the opportunity of [illegible] to the east, though British [illegible] bia. He has not yet abandoned [illegible] coming to the coast, and if he [illegible] through this province he will [illegible] the State of Washington.

**Slight Fire on the Yosemite**

While the steamer Yosemite [illegible] the way from Westminster to t[illegible] yesterday, a pot of boiling [illegible] which was being taken out of [illegible] by a fireman upset, and in [illegible] than a second the whole galley [illegible] blaze. The donkey engine was [illegible] immediately, and before the fire [illegible] any headway a stream of water [illegible] using control. The crew acted [illegible] for the manner in which they [illegible] the fire, for if it had got a start [illegible] damage might have resulted, [illegible] of hay was stored close by th[illegible] door. The cook had his face [illegible] burned, but beyond that no seri[illegible] age was done.

## SEALER ARRIVES.

**The Annie C. Moore Returns—V[illegible] terous Weather—Schooners S[illegible]**

The sealing schooner Annie C[illegible] Capt. Sieward, owned by Capt. [illegible] arrived in the harbor yesterd[illegible] noon with 91 skins. The capt[illegible] having had only three days [illegible] boats could go out at all, the we[illegible] ing very boisterous. The se[illegible] very thick during December a[illegible] acy, but at present there are [illegible] seen, and it is thought that [illegible] further north this season than [illegible] been in any previous year.

The Annie C. Moore requir[illegible] hauled on the days preparatory [illegible] north, it was though pruden[illegible] captain to do so at once, as s[illegible] the ones last unprofitable. The [illegible] schooners were spoken:—

March 12—Beatrice.
" 15—Sea Lion.
" 17—Sapphire
" 18—Triumph (since last in [illegible]

Capt. Cox of the Triumph [illegible] having spoken the following sch[illegible]

Mollie Adams.
Sayward
Ariel
Black-Diamond
Pathfinder
Minnie
Henry Dennis.
Favorite; no catch.
Kate
Adele "

## THE OPIUM TRAD[illegible]

**A Large Decrease in the Busines[illegible] Firms Closing Their Doo[illegible]**

Kwong On Tai, one of t[illegible] opium dealers in the city, has [illegible] store on account of the dullnes[illegible] business which is attributed to [illegible] decrease during the last few [illegible] the Chinese population, and al[illegible] fact that not so much of the dr[illegible] ing smuggled into the Sta[illegible] firms of Sing Wo Chang a[illegible] Chung are also contemplating [illegible] of the business on the same [illegible] These three firms are about th[illegible] with the exception of Tai Yu[illegible] Victoria, have all invested la[illegible] of money in their trade.

In conversation with a Colo[illegible] porter, Tai Yune, the largest [illegible] the province, said that during [illegible] four years the Chinese pop[illegible] Victoria had dwindled down f[illegible] to less than 3,000. He also [illegible] the large dealers would soone[illegible] $500 license than $100, as, if [illegible] sum was instituted for the $[illegible] large number of small firm[illegible] spring up.

Several other dealers were c[illegible] and they all complained of the [illegible] of business, which had been [illegible] for the last few years on acco[illegible] lessened Chinese population. [illegible] thought that the action of [illegible] layers' union in refusing t[illegible] buildings with Chinamen w[illegible] many more Chinamen to leave [illegible]

## ARRIVAL OF THE MARY [illegible]

**Trouble Between Master and [illegible] Latter Obtain Legal Adv[illegible]**

The sealing schooner Ma[illegible] Capt. D. McLean, which left [illegible] cisco December 27th, arrived i[illegible] bor yesterday afternoon with [illegible] The captain reports having [illegible] boisterous weather with [illegible] chances of sealing. The scho[illegible] into this port on account of t[illegible] on March 12th refusing to [illegible] cause, the captain says, being [illegible] had received their pay in ad[illegible] pealed to get out of wor[illegible]

MAMA SAYS THE DOWSWELL WASHER
STANDARD WRINGER
MANUFACTURED BY THE STANDARD HARDWARE CO. HAMILTON ONT.
SAVE HEALTH TIME MONEY
HARDWARE DEALERS SELL THEM OR DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY
STANDARD Mfg Co HAMILTON ONT
my23-w-12mos

## The Celebrated French Cure,

Warranted to cure **APHRODITINE** or money refunded.

Is SOLD ON POSITIVE GUARANTEE to cure any form of nervous disease, or any disorder of the generative organs, whether arising from the excessive use Stimulants, Tobacco or Opium, or through indiscretion, etc., such as Loss of Brain Power, Wakefulness, Bearing down Pains in the Back, Hysteria, Nervous Prostration, Lencorrhœa, Dizziness, Weak Memory, Loss of Power, which if neglected often lead to premature old age and insanity. Price $1 a box, 6 boxes for $5.00. Sent by mail on receipt of price.

BEFORE — AFTER

A WRITTEN GUARANTEE for every $5 order, to refund the money if a Permanent Cure is not effected. Thousands of testimonials from old and young, of both sexes, permanently cured by APHRODITINE. Circular free. Address

THE APHRO MEDICINE CO.
WESTERN BRANCH,
Box 27. PORTLAND, OR.
SOLD BY
E. C. KELLOGG, DRUGGIST,
Corner of Douglas and Yates streets,
f mo28-dw-ly Sole Agent for Victoria.

## FOR SALE.

The Imported Irish Stallion,

## "MICKEY FREE"

Foaled June 25th, 1886.
Bred by Mr. Bolton, Mayfield, Graigal, Carlow, Ireland.
Color, seal brown.
Height, 16 hands 3 inches.
Weight, 1400 lbs.

"Mickey Free" is by the celebrated thoroughbred sire "Harkaway," owned by Mr. Robt. Keppel, Raheenkilliane, Ballon, Co. Carlow, Ireland.

His dam "Mayflower," by "Selim," winner of the 2000 guineas, eight Queen's plates, the Irish derby, the Badminton Stakes, and the Elsdon Stakes.

He is a grand carriage and general purpose stallion, with perfect temper and fine action.

m11-3t-eod-2tw C. T. DUPONT.

## TO WEAK MEN

Suffering from the effects of errors, early decay, wasting weakness, etc., I will send a valuable treatise (sealed), containing full particulars for home cure, FREE of charge. A splendid medical work; should be read by every man who is nervous and debilitated. Address Prof. F. C. FOWLER, Moodus, Conn. m8yd-dlw