

royalties on coal, timber and grazing leases. He concluded by saying that the Prairie Provinces should have their natural resources, as the great province of Ontario to the east and the great province of British Columbia to the west already had.

Questions Answered

Dr. Rutherford was informed that from September 1, 1905, to May 31, 1910, there was expended for the construction of buildings other than telephone construction, \$7,597,892.99; for the purchase of sites other than telephone construction, \$465,346.30; and for the construction of steel bridges, \$726,425.06. Mr. Bennett was informed that Mr. C. A. Master, K.C., of Toronto, had been employed temporarily as a legal adviser.

Hall Insurance

Mr. Muehler was told that the total expenditure for hall insurance up to November 23, 1910, was \$309,914.53, and the total receipts for the same period was \$111,152, a deficit for the season of \$198,762.53. Dr. Rutherford received information that the amount advanced to farmers' associations unpaid on May 31, 1910, was \$39,335.36. He was also told that the amount of interest standing to the credit of the Provincial Treasurer on May 31, 1910, re sale of C.N.R. bonds was \$63,787.66; re Alberta and Great Waterways railway on the same date, \$195,404.13, and on July 12, 1910, \$198,493.17.

Mr. Bennett moved for a return showing all letters, etc., in the custody of the government regarding the A. & G.W. and the Canada West Construction Co. subsequent to June 1, 1910, and these were laid on the table by the premier.

Election Act

Mr. Bennett introduced an act to amend the Alberta Election Act. This provides for an amendment making it impossible for a judge to be appointed to a political office until six months after his resignation as a judge, and that all vacancies in the legislature must be filled within forty days. Several private bills came up for consideration, and Mr. O'Brien's Payment of Wages Forfeitedly bill received its second reading.

The house then went into committee on the Canadian Northern railway Co.'s bill of incorporation. This provides for the granting of a charter containing two provisions, one to build a line from Edmonton north to Pine Pass through the Peace River, and the other from the proposed Edmonton and Calgary branch of the C.N.R. westward from Rocky Mountain House to the Brazeau. The fight on this bill was bitterly waged, as it differs materially from the model bill adopted by the legislature some years ago. Mr. Bennett, who led the attack, based the attack on this and twitted the members with inconsistency. The head office of the company can be established anywhere the directors may see fit, and there was a strong fight on this point. As was to be expected, every amendment was defeated, but the opposition was not confined to the members on the left of the speaker, as several government supporters lined up in the fight. Notice was given that every clause of the act would be contested when the bill was reported and a division taken every time, so an interesting report will be forthcoming.

On Friday afternoon the house was quickly at business and Mr. Marshall's bill respecting the rights of married women was referred to the committee on legal orders.

An Autocratic Ruling

Then another stand-up fight occurred, and the speaker apparently lost his head, giving a ruling which was, to say the least, of a very autocratic order and worthy of an officer in the realm of the Czar. The famous Alberta & Great Waterways Railway Company again was up for discussion, and Mr. Bennett moved that it be adjourned as the necessary legal notice had not been given. The speaker asked for a vote and declared that the bill should be read. Mr. Bennett and Mr. Muehler, in accordance with the rules of the house, demanded that the vote of the members be procured, but although Mr. Bennett was able to instance precedents in other parliaments of the Em-

pire, the speaker apparently made a ruling of his own and refused the vote. The speaker was palpably wrong, and such a ruling will not tend towards harmony as it was a good instance of the gag rule.

Premier Sifton, in a very brief speech, then moved the second reading of the bill, which provides for the placing of the \$7,400,000 secured by the A. & G.W. bonds in the revenue fund of the province.

The premier said that this bill was practically the foreclosure of an agreement for the nonfulfillment of contract, and asked for the support of the house.

He was followed by ex-Attorney-General Cross, who strongly opposed the bill and who outlined the policy on which the Rutherford government was returned to power. The debate was adjourned till Monday next when others will speak, and it is not likely that a vote will be reached for some time. From present indications the vote is going to be a close one as Mr. Cross seems to have quite a large gathering, and the old waterways deal will probably be opened up once more.

Mr. Cornwall got his Canadian Northern Railway bill through the committee of the house, and it will come up for the third reading on Monday. Hon. Mr. Mitchell's act respecting truancy is now being considered by the committee.

One Bill Passed

The net result of almost three weeks' work so far is that one bill has finally been adopted. This is an important one, however, and Mr. Marcell is to be congratulated in having been successful in getting it through the house so quickly. It was the act respecting charges upon land contained in certain instruments.

So far committees have not got down to work to any large extent, and the members have been satisfied with a few hours' work per day. Commencing next week, however, it is proposed to commence night sittings, so the chances are that something may be accomplished and that the session will soon be at an end. There does not seem to be any further important legislation foreshadowed, although it is rumored that some necessary amendments to the Dairymen's Act will be introduced and that several of the existing acts will be considerably amended.

The one point which impresses itself strongly is the great need for the farmers to have a representative on hand who will be prepared to watch their interests and to give information to the various committees. It appears that the railways and other interests have been on the ground floor for some time, and if the farmers are to reap any advantage they too must be on hand to suggest legislation, possibly even prepare it, and see that the committees are made thoroughly conversant with same. This is the observation of one person after watching proceedings for a few days. The farmers must be prepared on all these questions if they will ever be successful. This is hardly reporting proceedings of a legislative assembly, but thoughts prompted by the action of the legislature on a private railway bill.

CHINA'S PARLIAMENT

China is moving very rapidly in constitutional changes. Of that one may be sure, in view of the recent developments concerning the convoking of the imperial parliament, which was originally fixed for the year 1913. In advancing the date two years the throne may not meet fully the demand of the newly-constituted Senate, which asked that the Parliament be summoned "at once" or "very soon," yet the conclusion is a substantial one. Evidently popular sentiment favors a little delay as possible in the complete establishment of representative institutions; indeed this was publicly admitted in the Senate only the other day by Prince Yu Liang, a member of the grand council, in saying that "the entire nation, from the highest classes to the lowest, was agreed upon the necessity of the early establishment of a general Parliament." We read that the senators received this declaration from one near the throne "with prolonged cheering"; and it is worth recalling in this connection that the Senate is composed of 100 members elected by the provinces, and 100 ap-

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pointed by the central government. With so strong an element in its composition under imperial rather than popular influences, it is all the more impressive that this body should have forced the government to advance the date for the introduction of a complete parliamentary system.

Parliamentary institutions are so alien to Chinese traditions and experience that their working will present problems of a peculiarly difficult nature. As yet the country has developed no strong central government such as the Japanese made the pivot of their experiment in this direction. Back of Parliament in Japan stands the mikado, the oligarchy of old ruling families and the army, which combine to furnish the state with a stability not easily surpassed. Even in Turkey today, with constitutionalism in some sort of operation and a Parliament in session at Constantinople, there is an equilibrium supplied by the arbitrary power wielded unofficially by the Young Turks secret committee, which really controls the army. China's central government, however, is exceedingly weak, compared with Japan's. The emperor is an infant and there is little indication that the regent is a strong man capable of exerting the influence of the throne. The Chinese army is still in the embryonic stage. The empire is an enormous country in territorial extent, and it contains an immense population. Whether a Parliament would strengthen nationalistic forces is a question to be determined by experience, but there are reasons for thinking that such a central body of representatives of all the provinces would indeed promote the consolidation which all true patriots of China most desire, to the end that the empire may never become so disorganized as to fall a prey to foreign powers. With all of the difficulties the new Parliament must encounter, its early establishment seems in line with progress and the real interests of the Chinese people.—Springfield Republican.

BIG OCEAN LINERS

Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 22.—Specifications are now being prepared for new liners to operate between Vancouver and the Antipodes, which will be twelve-thousand-ton vessels. When the company bid for a renewal of the service at Ottawa, Sir James Mills submitted to the federal authorities the views of his fellow directors, and he has received the assurance that the mail contract will be of such a length as to justify the company building 14,000 ton steamers for the Vancouver service. While Canada has come to a decision, Australia remains to be heard from. Sir James has just sailed from San Francisco for Sydney.

CANADA'S DAIRY TRADE

Ottawa, Nov. 20.—J. A. Riddick, in a report recently issued in respect to the dairy trade of the Dominion, states that the total exports for the last fiscal year show an increase in value of the dairy products reported amounting to \$1,406,718. Mr. Riddick, on the basis of an annual consumption per head of \$10, estimates the value of the products consumed during the year 1909-10 to be \$75,000,000, which, added to the value of the exports, given as \$23,000,000, makes a total of \$98,000,000 as the total value of the dairy production in Canada for the year.

SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Winnipeg industrial exhibition was held at the Chambers of commerce, Winnipeg, when the following motions were adopted:

1. Proposed by Alderman Milton and seconded by Alderman Cass, that a vote of thanks be tendered the members of the retiring board of directors for the very efficient manner in which the affairs of the association had been conducted during the past year.

2. Proposed by F. W. Drewry and seconded by G. F. Bryan, that the shareholders of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition association in annual meeting desire to express their thanks to the provincial government and the council of this city of Winnipeg for their continued financial support by which they are enabled to offer more generous premiums.

3. Proposed by W. J. Black and seconded by W. G. Scott, that a vote of thanks be tendered to the railroad companies for the excellent train service rendered this year and the assistance given in reduced rates.

4. Proposed by F. J. Cox and seconded by A. C. McRae, that the members of the Winnipeg industrial association desire to express to the representatives of the press who have during the past year stood so loyally by the exhibition, their appreciation of the services rendered by them.

5. Proposed by W. J. Black and seconded by G. H. Greig, that the association be called the "Canadian Industrial Exhibition" instead of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition. In bringing forward this motion Mr. Black said he thought it was time that the name was changed, because the exhibition had outgrown the name of "Winnipeg" and had become "Provincial." He thought that in keeping with the work which had to be done the name "Canadian" should be substituted for the name "Winnipeg." It must remain the industrial exhibition and he would like to live to see it become the real industrial exhibition of the Dominion. The reason for his bringing forward this proposal was that he thought the broader and bigger name "Canadian" would draw the people from all parts closer in touch with it.

EXHIBITION DIRECTORS MEET

At a meeting of the directors of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition association held Thursday, Nov. 24, Mayor Sanford Evans was elected president, and A. A. Gilroy, vice-president; the following committees were appointed:

Executive committee composed of the president, vice-president, the chairman of each of the standing committees, the treasurer and the manager.

Grounds and buildings—J. M. Ross and Wm. Brydon, chairman; F. W. Drewry, Geo. H. Greig, Dr. Little, A. C. McRae, Jas. McDiarmid, and H. G. Spurgeon.

Attractions—A. A. Andrews, chairman; F. W. Drewry, G. F. Galt, A. A. Gilroy, J. M. Ross, and D. E. Sprague.

Printing and Advertising—F. W. Drewry, chairman; A. A. Andrews, D. C. Cameron, A. A. Gilroy, and Wm. Whyte. Prize List—Geo. H. Greig, chairman; W. Brydon, D. C. Cameron, C. W. Graham, A. A. Gilroy, Dr. Little, Jas. McDiarmid, and Hugh Sutherland.

Gates and Tickets—D. E. Sprague, chairman; W. Brydon, Hugh Sutherland, and Wm. Whyte.

Racing—A. C. McRae, chairman; C. W. Graham, Dr. Little, J. M. Ross, D. E. Sprague, H. C. Spurgeon and Hugh Sutherland.

Dogs—H. C. Spurgeon, chairman; C. W. Graham, and G. F. Galt.

A vote of thanks was passed to A. A. Andrews, the retiring president, for his services during the past three years. It was decided to draw the attention of the city council to the loss of the old main building and asking them to take action to replace the same at the earliest possible moment. The following were also elected patrons: Earl Grey and Lord Strathcona, and honorary directors, the board of control and J. C. Easton.