

Provincial
LegislatureAnother Short Session of the
House—Vancouver City,
Bill.Bills of Sale Act Read a Second
Time—Budget Speech Next
Week.

Victoria, January 25th, 1900.

The Speaker took the chair at 2:10 p. m. Prayers were read by the Rev. J. P. Vichart.

A petition was presented by Mr. Green from 150 people in and around Sloan city, praying that there be no interference with the eight-hour law.

Jurors Act.

Hon. Mr. Henderson asked leave to withdraw the bill to amend the Jurors Act standing on the orders. Leave was granted and the order discharged. A few minutes later the Attorney-General presented a message from the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting a bill to amend the Jurors Act. The message will be put through the ordinary course tomorrow.

Accounts to December 31st.

Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton, on the motion for the adjourned debate on Mr. Turner's resolution asking for the accounts to December 31st, moved an amendment so as to make the resolution call for an abstract only.

Mr. Turner had no objection, as he understood from the Finance Minister that it was impossible to get the details now. The resolution was passed as amended and reads thus:

"That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, asking that he may be pleased to direct that an abstract of the accounts of revenue and expenditure of the province from 1st July to 31st December, 1899, be laid before the House."

Evidence Bill.

The House went into committee on the bill to amend the Evidence Bill. Mr. Kidd in the chair. The section of the bill already published was passed.

Mr. McPhillips said he had some amendments to propose, but he was not ready to go on with them. He asked the Attorney-General to allow progress to be reported.

Hon. Mr. Henderson had no objection, so the committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

County Court Bill.

The House went into committee on the County Court Amendment Bill. Mr. Clifford in the chair.

The bill provided for a vacation in County Courts from July 1st to August 1st inclusive annually. Mr. Pooley moved an amendment that the vacation be from August 1st to September 1st. This was agreed to and the committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendment.

Trustees Bill.

Hon. Mr. Henderson moved the second reading of the bill to amend the law respecting the liability of trustees. He said the bill was taken from the statutes of England. The principle of it appeared in the second session as follows:

2. If it appears to the Supreme Court or a judge thereof that a trustee, however appointed, is or may be personally liable for any breach of trust, whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the passing of this act, but has acted honestly and reasonably, and ought fairly to be excused for the breach of trust and for omitting to obtain the directions of the court in the matter in which he committed such breach, then the court or judge may relieve the trustee either wholly or partly from personal liability for the same.

It seemed to the Attorney-General that the bill should pass without amendment, as it appeared to him to be a proper precaution for trustees who might have acted honestly and yet have technically committed a breach of trust. In England they were very jealous as to the position of trustees and of such an act passed there British Columbia might well adopt it. He suggested that the bill of the same character of which no law was given by Mr. Helmcken be moved.

Mr. Helmcken had not the slightest objection to that.

The bill was read a second time.

Game Bill.

The Game Bill was next considered in committee with Mr. Kellie in the chair. The clause preventing the export of pickled hides, as published, was passed, but as there were some suggested clauses to add progress was reported.

Municipalities Bill.

The bill to amend the Municipalities Incorporation Act went through committee without amendment. Mr. A. W. Smith in the chair. The bill was reported complete.

Farmers' Institutes.

The same course was adopted with the Farmers' Institutes Bill. Major-General Kinchard in the chair. This bill provides for the sending of reports to the Department of Agriculture instead of to the Provincial Secretary.

Notaries Bill.

The Notaries Bill was considered in committee. Mr. Ellison in the chair. It provides that notaries be for the whole province in future. There is no change in the examination. The bill was reported complete without amendment.

About a Police Officer.

Mr. Booth asked the Premier the following questions: 1. Why was the police officer of South Cedar (Mr. J. Cassidy) discharged? 2. What salary did he receive?

Hon. Mr. Semlin replied: "Mr. George Cassidy of South Cedar, or Oyster Harbor, was appointed to the position of

class of our own people. The policy of the government is to prevent if possible the employment of Asiatics in coal mines. With that object we are in hearty accord. There is a difficulty, no doubt, in framing a clause that will not be too wide in its meaning, as the clause in question is, and at the same time not have the appearance of legislating against a particular class, and thereby be unconstitutional, but surely it is not one that cannot be got over. The principle of the Natal law, which is acceptable to British, and is not viewed with disfavor by Oriental countries, might possibly be applicable in this case. But however that may be, there is very little doubt that the proposed amendment should not pass in its present form.

THE ILLS OF WOMEN

Are usually the result of an exhausted nervous system which can be fully restored by the use of Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food. Women made nervous and irritable by the wasting diseases which drain their system and new life, new vigor, new energy, in Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food, the world's greatest blood and nerve builder.

Precautionary
MeasuresMayor Hayward Will Issue a
Proclamation Regarding
Vaccination.Health Authorities on the Alert
to Prevent Introduction of
Smallpox.

The prevalence of smallpox in the states across the line has resulted in the cities of the British Columbia coast taking additional precaution to prevent the introduction of the disease. The Attorney-General has also taken prompt measures to protect the province, and the provincial board of health has already issued a proclamation providing against the introduction of the dread disease.

As usual, Chinatown in each of the four cities of the coast is receiving the greatest attention, and the officials in Vancouver, New Westminster, Victoria and Nanaimo are causing a thorough cleaning up of these pest-centres.

It is gratifying to know that the health officers of this city are, as usual, vigilant in the performance of the additional duties which these epidemics entail. The sound-bells are being regularly inspected to prevent the carriage of the disease by their passengers, while early in the week a proclamation will be issued by the mayor making obligatory on all residents vaccination and other precautionary steps. The formalities necessary to be observed in drafting the proclamation could not be completed this week, but this difficulty will be overcome in the course of a day or two.

CATARH OF THE STOMACH.—Could often be prevented and cured with a stomach and digestive organs predisposed to weakness, being stimulated by some such food as is contained in the vegetable pills out of which Dr. Von Sina's Stomach Pills are prepared. But the secret of the cure is in the fact that the pills are made of vegetable matter and the sufferers are not having their pockets filled for a cure with 50 tablets 25 cents. Sold by Dea & Hancock and Hall & Co.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

All Talk About Intervention is Baseless—Sea Rights of Neutrals.

Berlin, Jan. 25.—A gentleman who is fully empowered to express the views of Count von Buelow, the foreign secretary, upon Anglo-German relations, made the following statement to the correspondent of the Association Press: "The British now do not hold a single German vessel, and no negotiations are now in progress since Germany has not yet formulated her claims for indemnity. Investigation is first necessary and this is now proceeding. The feeling between Great Britain and Germany is growing better, despite the effort of the jingoes of both countries to the contrary. Recent remarks must not be understood as meaning that Germany is aiming at convening a conference for the international settlement of the sea rights of neutrals before the end of the war. As for all the talk about intervention it is baseless. No such intention exists in any place."

Test the Urine . . .

It tells the state of the kidneys—It makes the kidneys healthy—Use Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills.

The up-to-date physician ascertains the health of the kidneys by an examination of the urine. It is not necessary, however, to be an expert in order to tell if the kidneys are deranged. You can conduct an examination yourself.

Allow the urine to stand for twenty-four hours in a glass bottle or vessel. If at the end of that time it contains a sediment resembling brickdust you may be certain that the kidneys are sluggish and inactive, and that they are leaving deadly poisons in the system which will in time produce terribly fatal complications.

As an invigorator of the kidneys Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver pills are of inestimable value. They act directly and naturally, and make the kidneys liver and bowels regular, active and healthy.

Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills positively, permanently and promptly cure Bright's disease, kidney and liver disorders, backache, lumbago, rheumatism and all the painful and fatal complications of the filtering organs of the body. The sale of this great kidney remedy is enormous throughout this continent and Europe. The merit is proclaimed by scores of thousands of grateful cured ones. One pill a dose, 25 cents a box, at all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

which the pro-Boer agitators are howling.

WESTMINSTER'S NEEDS.

So much excellent work has been done for the province as a whole by the annual agricultural and industrial exhibition at New Westminster that we think few will be found to dispute the claim that the Royal City deserves substantial recognition for its pluck and enterprise, often displayed under circumstances of the most discouraging kind. The citizens of Westminster have formally applied to the provincial government for a grant of six thousand dollars for the purposes of the exhibition of 1900.

Should the government grant this request, of two things we may be sure. First, the money will go into the hands of a body of men who have been on trial as managers of agricultural exhibitions at New Westminster for over twelve years, and who have signally proved their ability to manage such things successfully. Second, valuable to the whole province as this annual fair has been when it was practically unassisted by government subsidy, it will now, thus aided, assume an importance and attractiveness which will make it the greatest agricultural gathering on the North Pacific Coast, providing an advertisement for the province well worth the amount of the grant.

We quoted the other day from a report of the United States agricultural department, giving astonishing news of agricultural expansion, and showing how assiduously the American government is working to build up this the grand basis of every great nation's power and wealth. The people of British Columbia have been told by the finest agricultural and dairying experts in the Dominion that their province is second to none in all Canada in its possibilities in those lines. Why not develop our agricultural and dairying resources in equal ratio with our minerals, fishery and timber resources? One good way to do this is to encourage the admirable enterprise of the people of the agricultural capital of British Columbia—New Westminster—by helping them to make their annual exhibition more and more attractive and representative. We hope the government will be able to grant the request of New Westminster.

THE COAL MINES REGULATION
ACT.

There is at present before the legislature an act to amend the "Coal Mines Regulation Act," which contains the following clause:

"2. No owner, agent or manager of a mine shall employ underground or allow to be underground for the purpose of employment, in any mine to which the 'Coal Mines Regulation Act' applies, any person who is unable to read the special rules for said mine, as printed in English, and to understand the same to the satisfaction of the inspector."

Before passing into law and undertaking to enforce an enactment of such a drastic and far-reaching character as the above members of the House should carefully consider what will be the effect of its application to existing conditions. We are aware that the principal object in view is to prohibit the employment underground of Chinese and Japanese, the former act having been declared unconstitutional by the privy council. "It is," no doubt, "a more general wording of the clause, and by omitting to particularize any nationality to avoid objections which were held to invalidate the last act, which was successfully attacked in the courts. But the clause as at present framed goes much further than the old law and includes in the proposed exclusion "any person who is unable to read the special rules for said mine as printed in English." That means that any Englishman, Irishman, or Scotchman, or any man of any other nationality, as well as Chinese, or Japanese, who is at present working in the coal mines of British Columbia and who is unable to read, will not be permitted after this act becomes law to continue his occupation. Although unlettered, English is his mother tongue and he has been able to understand the regulations as explained to him. If we are correct in assuming that that will be the effect of the proposed enactment, we cannot too strongly urge upon the government and the members of the House to pause and consider the consequences. Good miners, of other than Asiatic nationality, who cannot read English are perhaps a small percentage of the whole, but no matter how few the number of unfortunates, but with intelligent miners there may be it will not be right for the legislature to say they must abandon their calling and make a living in some other way.

We refer especially to men of our own race. The same remarks, however, will apply to the Scandinavians, the Italian, or any other alien who has not learned to read English. He may be able to speak our language and to understand the regulations, but being unable to read it as printed in English he will be debarred from working underground. For the moment we do not concern ourselves about the ethics of the discrimination as it may effect foreign miners, nor discuss the disturbance of the great industry of coal mining which the enforcement of a too drastic educational qualification would undoubtedly have. These are points of immense importance, which must be considered before passing a law of this kind; but at the present time we are only directing attention to the wrong that will be in-

cluded by the clause. We are aware that the principal object in view is to prohibit the employment underground of Chinese and Japanese, the former act having been declared unconstitutional by the privy council. "It is," no doubt, "a more general wording of the clause, and by omitting to particularize any nationality to avoid objections which were held to invalidate the last act, which was successfully attacked in the courts. But the clause as at present framed goes much further than the old law and includes in the proposed exclusion "any person who is unable to read the special rules for said mine as printed in English." That means that any Englishman, Irishman, or Scotchman, or any man of any other nationality, as well as Chinese, or Japanese, who is at present working in the coal mines of British Columbia and who is unable to read, will not be permitted after this act becomes law to continue his occupation. Although unlettered, English is his mother tongue and he has been able to understand the regulations as explained to him. If we are correct in assuming that that will be the effect of the proposed enactment, we cannot too strongly urge upon the government and the members of the House to pause and consider the consequences. Good miners, of other than Asiatic nationality, who cannot read English are perhaps a small percentage of the whole, but no matter how few the number of unfortunates, but with intelligent miners there may be it will not be right for the legislature to say they must abandon their calling and make a living in some other way.

On the other hand it is pointed out that the Uitlanders outnumber the Boers two to one, and possess an even greater share of the intelligence of the country than of its wealth. Among them are some of the most progressive men in the world. While all of them are well educated.

"And yet they are held in complete subjection," he adds, "to men who are more ignorant than the American negro. They pay all the taxes and spend not one cent of them. They see millions of dollars lavished on the secret service and fortifications at Pretoria, while Johannesburg remains a pest-hole. The English language is proscribed in the schools and law-courts of a city where not one man in a thousand speaks anything but English. Their children are not even taught pure Dutch, but a dialect as much beneath pure Dutch as Gaelic is beneath Russian; and they are forced to use Dutch text-books that are centuries behind the times."

A feature of the situation which is entirely overlooked by the anti-British press is emphasized by the Wave, namely the consistent and steady friendship of Britain for the States during the latter's war with Spain, when the intervention of a continental power would have spelled disaster to American arms. The Wave makes the deduction from the attitude of certain sections of the United States to Britain at the present time, that republics are ungrateful. The editor concludes as follows:

"There are just two countries in the world where the government is such as to assure an approximation to individual freedom. One is Great Britain, the other the United States. This is not saying that either of these governments is perfect, but they approach nearest to the Republican ideal. And what England does at home, she does for her colonies. A few months hence, when the valor of the Boers has yielded to the resource of Great Britain, she will supplant a very poor government by a very good one.

of such defects, and yet be getting other goods and perhaps disposing of them. There was no means of ascertaining if there was a bill of sale against him. In the cities surely 21 days was too long. It would give a fraudulent man—who he did not say there were any—an opportunity to get ahead of his creditors. In Ontario they had five days, and that worked very well. He then repeated for the benefit of Mr. Eberts the instance he gave earlier of a man-renewing his bill of sale every 20 days, so that it never got registered. This was kept up for two years and at the end of that time a bank stepped in and the other creditors got nothing. The Attorney-General thought that at any rate in Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo and New Westminster the time should be shortened. It was simply a question of time. He was open to conviction as to the time.

Mr. Eberts asked the Attorney-General not to make the time too short, owing to slow mail communication with some parts of British Columbia. Hon. Mr. Carter Cotton agreed with Mr. Eberts that 21 days was required in some parts of the province; indeed 30 days might be necessary in very remote districts. But the instance cited by the Attorney-General showed that the act as at present gave an opportunity for fraud. It was to do away with that that the bill was brought in. In regard to Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo, and New Westminster, where a large amount of business was done by wholesale houses and retailers in the same place, surely eight days was ample. It must be apparent to every one that if a man gives a bill of sale and on the twentieth day renews it again, and keeps that up for two years, there must be some intention to keep his creditors from knowing that he has given a bill of sale. The present bill would probably do away with that. However, these were details that could be carefully considered in committee. Some of the periods in the different parts of the province might be lengthened. That would not affect the object of the bill, which was to make difficult any fraud of the kind mentioned by the Attorney-General.

Mr. McPhillips declared that a recent Supreme court decision had been to the effect that if fraud of that kind was proved the bill of sale was of no value.

The second reading was agreed to.

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The effect of this amendment would be that the Lands and Works Department would have charge of the issuing of crown grants for mineral claims. It was found that if the Department of Mines had charge of this matter it would necessitate almost a new staff of officers and an increase in the staff.

The second reading was carried.

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The House rose at 3:40 p.m.

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The most important bill introduced today was that by Mr. Tisdall to revise and consolidate the Vancouver Incorporation Act. The measure is designed to revise and consolidate the old acts relating to the Terminal City. The original act of 1886 has been amended so often that now it is in a shape which to the lay reader is bewildering. It is therefore proposed to consolidate the original acts and the amending acts and also to ask for further powers. These further powers desired include the objects following: To abolish the ward system; to provide under certain conditions for the government of the city by commissioners; to assess street railways for a portion of the cost of watering the streets; to regulate the placing of telephones and other poles; to charge property owners with the cost of sewers running past or adjoining their premises, by way of rental; to limit and define localities in which wash houses and other trades or business may be carried on; to prohibit the opening of barber shops and the carrying on of any trades or businesses on Sunday; to provide for the fixing of the union label on city supplies; to impose a tax on bicycles; to prohibit peddlers, hawkers, transient traders and petty chapmen; to erect public wharves and impose and collect tolls for the use thereof; to purchase, construct and operate telephone and district messenger systems; to regulate the subdivision of city lots; to confirm the present survey of 2044; to administer oaths to and examine witnesses under oath in civic inquiries; to enter into contracts extending over a period of years; to borrow money for specific purposes, giving as security the undertaking and guarantee by the city; to repeal section 16 of the Vancouver Incorporation Act Amendment Act, 1895; to provide for the replacing of all telephone, electric and other wires underground; to provide a fund for the insurance of city buildings and property; to license clubs; to prohibit the construction of and remove slaughter houses which may be in the opinion of the council a nuisance; to provide that no by-law be enforced by the voters qualified to vote thereon shall be again introduced until

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