Provincial Legislature

The Supply Bill Brought Down and Discussed by Finance Minister.

An Able Review of the Financial Conditions—Prudent and Optimistic.

Assessment Act Further Amended on Report — Other Business.

Tuesday, March 28, 1905.

THE House assembled at 2 o'clock, and after the customary exercises the following was the order of business.

Third Readings

The bill respecting County Courts and the bill relatiug to unclaimed money deposits in the provincial treasury passed third readings.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite moved: "Whereas Ralph Smith, M. P., has introduced a bill at Ottawa respecting the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway; and whereas the said bill contains the following clause:

"'9. Notwithstanding anything in this act, the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company shall not, for or by reason of entering into the said agreement or selling its said railway thereunder, be held, or deemed, or taken to have waived, or lost, or prejudiced, or affected in anywise howsoever any of the franchises, rights,, powers authorities, exemptions, grants and privileges held or possessed by the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company at the time of entering into the said agreement and selling the said line of railway, but all such franchises, rights, powers, authorities, exemptions, grants and privileges shall, notwithstanding the entering into of such agreement and the completion of such sale, remain, exist and continue in full force and effect, unprejudiced and unimpaired, for the benefit, profit and advantage of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company'; and

"Whereas the object of this clause is to prevent this province from exerting and exercising its power to tax the land of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company, which owing to the sale of the said railway has now become open to taxation; and whereas high legal opinion has doubtless been obtained by the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company that this will be the effect of the passage of said legislation through the Dominion House; and whereas it is a matter of vital importance that the province should preserve intact its right to tax the said Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway land belt: Be it therefore resolved, that this House urge upon the government the necessity of taking such immediate steps as it may deem necessary in the matter to protect the rights of the people of this province."

In speaking to this, the member for Nanaimo took the ground that if the company was taxed so that it could not hold its lands, they would be in a position to obtain remuneration from the courts of the province for the damage suffered through such taxation. The company had taken a different stand and had endeavored to "sneak" through the Dominion House a bill to exempt their lands from taxation for all time.

The Attorney-General said that the bill referred to was designed to ratify an agreement between two companies with respect to the transfer of the Island railway. Both companies, being subject to Dominion laws, had sought legislation from the federal house. As to whether the E. & N. lands became liable to provincial taxation because of this transfer, he would not venture an opinion. In connection with the bill now before the Dominion parliament, he had telegraphed the Minister of Justice suggesting that the passage of such legislation might interfere with the right of the province to tax the railway lands if they ceased to be used for railway purposes, to which a reply was received from the Minister of Justice that he did not understand that the legislation referred to would have the effect suggested. If the province had the right to tax these lands, no Dominion legislation could interfere with that right. What he had done was for the purpose of erring, if he erred at all,, on the side of caution in the matter. As to the point taken by Mr. Hawthornthwaite that if at any time in the future the government were to collect taxes from these lands, a cause of action would arise, and that the court would be bound to give the railway company damages to the extent of the taxation evoked, as a matter of fact no court could interfere with the rights of the province so far as taxation was concerned. They either had the right to tax the lands or they had not; and upon any attempt of the province to enforce such taxation this question would be threshed out. He offered no objection to the resolution, but thought the government had shown themselves sufficiently alert that they did not even require the house itself to urge them to protect the rights of the people.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald disapproved of the resolution in its present form. It made certain statements which he did not think the House could endorse, for instance that the object of this clause "is to prevent this province from exerting and exercising its power to tax the land of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company, which owing to the sale of the said railway has now become open to taxation," etc. The position advanced was that there was no doubt as to the right of the province in this regard. At the least the question should be left for the courts to determine. He therefore moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Oliver, that all the words after the word "Whereas" in the first line be struck out, and the following substituted therefor: "the Canadian Pacific Railway Company are seeking to have passed by the parliament of Canada a bill intituled 'An Act respecting the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company,' which contains the following clause:

"'Notwithstanding anything in this Act, the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company shall not, for or by reason of entering into said agreement or selling its said railway thereunder, be held, or deemed, or taken to have waived, or lost, or prejudiced, or affected in anywise howsoever any of the franchises rights, powers, authorities, exemptions, grants and privileges held or possessed by the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company at the time of entering into the said agreement and selling the said line of railway, but all such franchises, rights, powers, authorities, exemptions, grants and privileges shall, notwithstanding the entering into of such agreement and the completion of such sale, remain, exist and continue in full force and effect, unprejudiced and unimpaired, for the benefit, profit and advantage of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway';

"Be it therefore resolved, that this House urge upon the government the necessity of taking such immediate steps as it may deem necessary in the matter to protect the rights of the people of this province."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite was willing to withdraw his resolution in favor of that named by the leader of the opposition, and the original resolution was accordingly withdrawn.

Mr. McInnes commended the view taken by the Attorney-General. There was no occasion for the alarm suggested by the member for Nanaimo. If the Ottawa bill passed affecting the rights of the province in question, it would be so much waste paper. The exclusive jurisdiction of the province in this regard was well understood at Ottawa. For instance, the E. & N. charter passed by the local House specially exempted the railway lands from taxation. In the charter passed by the Dominion parliament the subject was not mentioned.

He criticized the point made by Mr. Hawthornthwaite of the fact that the bill in question was introduced by Mr. Ralph Smith, pointing out that the introduction of bills was a duty devolving upon members apart altogether from their personal views with respect to the contents,, showing that in this sense Mr. Hawthornthwaite had become responsible for bringing certain matters before the legislature which were not in accord with his own opinions.

The amended resolution was then carried unanimously.

Public Bills and Orders

The bill respecting the jurisdiction and procedure of county courts, and the bill relating to unclaimed money deposits in the treasury of the province passed third readings.

Upon consideration of the bill to amend the Assessment Act on report, some amendments were interjected.

Wild land, in section 3, sub-section 12, is held to be all land other than coal land and timber land, held by any person, on which there shall not be existing improvements to the value, when assessed, of $2.50 per acre.

Mr. Evans moved to increase the amount of improvements herein exempt from $2.50 to $5 per acre.

The amendment was rejected, by a vote of 26 to 11.

The Minister of Finance proposed that land subdivided as townsites, into lots of two acres or less in extent, regularly surveyed and shown upon a plan thereof, duly registered, shall not be assessed as wild land.

The amendment passed.

The Minister of Finance moved an amendment designed to prevent persons holding timber lands from palming them off as wild lands in order to escape taxation.

This amendment also passed.

Mr. Oliver moved to add "Provided that income derived from investments shall not be exempt under this section" to the end of section 8. The object of the amendment, he said, was that the exemption provided in the section should not apply to incomes derived from investments.

Hon. Mr. Cotton pointed out that the word "investment" was rather wide and might lead to a confusion of purpose.

The amendment was rejected, 37-3, as also a motion of Mr. McInnes to exempt improvements on land for agricultural purposes up to the value of $1,000.

Mr. Brown proposed to exempt coal lands held under lease or licence from any further tax.

The amendment was accepted.

Mr. Oliver proposed to increase the tax on wild land from 4 to 5 per cent.

This tax, as it stood in the bill as introduced, was fixed at 3 per cent., and was increased to 4 per cent. on motion of the Minister of Finance, in committee. Mr. Oliver wanted to make the tax as it was in the old bill.

Mr. McInnes supported the amendment. He held that there was no justification for the reduction which the government made in this tax.

The amendment was defeated, 24 to 16.

A number of improvements calculated to improve the formal provisions of the act were passed on motion of the Finance Minister.

The Budget

Upon message from His Honor the Supply Bill was introduced by the Finance Minister, who on rising to move that the Speaker do now leave the chair, said:

It was not necessary in making this motion to go further back in our financial history than the date when the present government assumed office (approximately the commencement of the last financial year), at that time a review of receipts and expenditures for the previous twelve years disclosed the fact that, during that period, the expenditures, including interest on railway guarantees, exceeded the revenue by over nine millions of dollars, or, in other words, the province had been falling in arrears at the rate of $750,000 per annum, as would be seen from the following figures:

Revenue	
1892 to 1903	$16,121,785
1904	2,638,260
	$18,760,045
Expenditures	
To 1892-1903	$24,743,377
1904	3,030,237
	$27,773,614
Excess of expenditure in 12 years	$9,013,569

The loan of the former year had been entirely expended, the treasury was empty, while there were outstanding contracts on hand to the extent of $748,000, some of which were included in the loan of $3,500,000, the proceeds of which had been already expended.

To find their true position at that time they must turn to the balance sheet of June 30, 1903. Then they had at the credit of current account $80,742, against which were deposits intestate estates and suitors fund, $152,571.91, or, in other words, had they been called upon to pay back these deposits they would have been short $71,829.91. In addition to this there was the balance due on the Fraser river bridge and other work in hand amounting to $748,360, making their liability on assuming office $820,189 over and above all current assets.

At the close of the session of 1903 it was decided that the incoming government should adopt the estimates prepared by their predecessors, but that retrenchment should as far as possible be affected in certain items. That this was carried out the following statistics would show:

Civil government salaries appropriated	$272,880
Expenditure	260,566
Saving effected	$ 12,313
Administration of justice salaries appropriated	$129,456
Expenditure	124,258
Saving effected	$ 5,198

Legislation expenditure came to $1,135 less than the amount appropriated.

Public institutions exceeded the estimate by $532, although savings were made in the museum of $325, and bureau of mines, $1,188; the expenditure in the insane asylum absorbed the difference.

Hospitals and charities showed an excess of $11,075, which was accounted for under the heads of grants to hospitals, the total of which was $76,711, exceeding the vote of $65,000 by $11,711. This being regulated by statute, was an expenditure over which the government had no control.

In administration of justice a saving was effected of $563. The vote for education was $448,220, and the expenditure, $415,358, showing a saving of $32,862.

On the other hand, the cost of transport was in excess of the estimate by $2,444. Revenue services exceeded the estimate of $17,000 by $7,155. In 1903 this expenditure was $30,329, and in 1904 it amounted to $24,155, showing a decrease of $6,174 over the former year. It was difficult to see why this item was cut down in the estimates to $17,000 in face of the expenditure in 1903.

Miscellaneous expenditures exceeded the estimates by $13,065. Similarly to the last named vote, miscellaneous was estimated at less than the former year by about $12,000, while the expenditure in 1903 was $161,500; the estimate for 1904 was cut down to $149,000.

To sum up the estimated expenditure for the year 1904, compiled by the late government was estimated at $2,491,566, with a supplementary estimate of $139,836 a total of $2,631,396, and the estimated revenue was $2,193,476, snowing an estimated deficit of $437,919. By careful administration of public expenditure this had been changed into a surplus of over $27,000.

On turning to the expenditure for the year 1904, it would be seen that the gross total was $3,030,237; but this included an amount for the Fraser river bridge of $470,743, reducing the amount expended out of revenue to $2,559,494. In the Loan Act of 1903 it was provided that the Fraser river bridge should be completed out of the sum then raised, which was done, and expenditure on this account was covered by the balance on hand of the loan retained for that purpose.

On the other hand, he had added the amounts expended on railway guarantees to expenditure. This was formerly carried forward as an asset, but in the meantime must be provided out of expenditure. Adding to this amount $51,059 brought the expenditure to $2,610,553. The revenue being $2,638,260, there was left a balance over expenditure of $27,706.95.

Half-yearly Statement

To come to the half yearly statement to December 31, 1904, it was found that the revenue of 1904 half year was $1,235,463.74, and that for the half year of 1903 it was $1,119,448.30, showing an increase of $116,015.44.

The expenditure for 1904 was $1,244,378.69, and for 1903 it was $1,505,812.07, showing a decrease of $261,433.38. But if the amount spent on the Fraser river bridge was deducted from 1903 the difference would not be great.

He called attention to large receipts under the head of Chinese Restriction Act, included in both these statements, that for 1903 being $253,050, and for 1904, $225,000. This item would now practically disappear from the accounts, and provision would have to be made to meet it by some other means. The province had received from the Dominion $955,462.50 out of the amount of $2,280,822 received by the Dominion under this act.

The total expenditure for the six months was $1,244,378, an excess over receipts which were $1,235,462, of $8,915. Considering this was for the "lean" half year, it pointed to an even balance sheet at the end of the fiscal year.

The estimated revenue for the coming year was $2,559,376. In this respect he had done his best to give the House a fair and honest account of what they might expect to receive. Land sales estimated last year at $80,000 he had raised to $100,000, on the basis of the showing from this source for six months this year, namely, $58,000. If the same condition of affairs obtained for the next 18 months they might expect to receive over $118,000 from this department. On similar grounds he had advanced the estimate for timber dues from $70,000 to $140,000, timber royalty from $250,000 to $325,000, timber leases, from $50,000 to $75,000. The estimated revenue from free miners' certificates was reduced from $70,000 to $60,000, and there were other reductions and increases, which he adverted to. In this connection he called attention to the loss of $258,050 formerly available from the Chinese Restriction Act, which it was necessary to provide for in some other way. As to the estimate of $2.000 under the head of the Game Act, he observed that the appointment of a warden was to be tried as an experiment to see if sufficient returns would be forthcoming to justify the organization of a department to look after the enforcement of the law. Last year the sum of $1,960 was realized from shooting licenses issued mostly for big game shooting in Atlin, Cariboo and Lillooet. It was believed that this sum would be considerably increased owing to the appointment of a warden, as provided for by the bill before the House.

Receipts from the Westminster bridge were placed at $25,000. Arrangements had been made for the use of the bridge by the Great Northern at $15,000 a year, in addition to which there were the ordinary tolls for vehicular and other traffic across the structure.

Mr. Wells asked if any other company except the Great Northern had secured running powers.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow said there was at present no other company, but the government reserved the right to grant running powers to any other company which might apply.

Provincial Liabilities

He then turned to the liabilities of the province, which were stated as follows:

Loan 1877, amount due	terminable 1907,	$ 462,690
Loan 1887, amount due	terminable 1917,	381,210
Loan 1897, amount due	terminable 1907,	40,000
Loan 1904, amount due	terminable 1914,	900,000
(Inscribed Stock Act)		
Loan 1891, amount due	terminable 1941,	2,139,141
Loan 1893, amount due	terminable 1941,	599,945
Loan 1895, amount due	terminable 1941,	2,037,000
Loan 1899, amount due	terminable 1941,	1,649,000
Loan 1902, amount due	terminable 1941,	3,496,850
		$11,705,836
Sinking Fund		
Loan 1877	$391,512	
Loan 1887	182,633	
Inscribed stock	776,884	
		$ 1,351,056
		$10,354,786
Dyking Loan		
	$671,000	
	357,000	
		1,028,000
		$11,382,786

While the figure of $731,334, the cost of this debt, might appear large, it must be remembered that of this, while the interest was $424,358, nearly $300,000 was used for sinking fund and redemption, the amount required for redemption being $110,000.

Coming to the estimated expenditure for the coming year, he showed that provision for the public debt required, 1905, $968,979; 1906, $731,334, an increase of $62,355, due to provision for interest and sinking fund on dyking loan, $56,705. Investment of sinking fund was increased $10,000. Civil government salaries in 1903 were $265,439, in 1904, $260,566; the estimates for 1905 were $248,620, and for 1906, $252,540, nearly $13,000 less than when the present government took office. The small increase over last year was due to the appointment of a game warden and one or two changes necessitated by increased business of the country; also that several clerks formerly on the temporary list, had been placed on the permanent roll.

Administration of justice salaries were $114,572, a decrease of $4,000 from last year, and about $10,000 less than 1904. The total annual reduction of salaries since this government came into power amounted to over $17,500 per annum.

For public institutions $152,654 was asked—about $2,000 less than the estimates of last year. Several items had been cut down, but the increase under the head of Hospital for the Insane of $10,000 more than absorbed the saving effected. Hospitals and charities showed an increase of $11,000, due to grants to hospitals (a statutory vote), requiring $84,000, as against $75,000 last year. This item seemed excessive in comparison with expenditure in Manitoba and the Territories, where the allowance was 37½ cents and 25 cents, respectively, and the total expenditures in 1904 were $88,662 and $18,950. Administration of justice showed a slight increase of $1,750.

Education

Discussing the matter of education, he showed that under the old School Act the estimate for the coming year was $466,000 (exclusive of about $55,000 for buildings). Under the new act the estimate was $423,000; but of course it must be remembered that this covered an expenditure of one-half the year on the basis of the old bill and the full reduction under this head would not be realized until 1907. The item miscellaneous showed a decrease of $10,000 from last year. Public works showed an increase of over $75,000 over the estimates of last year. The total expenditure, including $55,000 for railway guarantees, was $2,621,038, an excess over receipts of $61,662. This as mentioned before, was due in some measure to having to provide for the schools on the old basis for six months of the year, and also the addition to the standing charges by taking over the dyking account, but it was believed the deficiency would be covered by carrying over a surplus from the present and past year sufficient to meet it. As pointed out last year, the loan of 1877 would mature in 1907, relieving the public debt of the item of $27,761 for interest, sinking fund $9,233, and loan of 1897 in the same year $10,000, and interest, $1,400 or a total of $48,414, which, in addition to an estimated additional saving of $90,000 under the School Act, should place the province in a better position in 1907 by about $140,000. Consequently it was safe to predict that although there was an estimated deficiency this coming year, owing to the causes he had named, by continued careful administration the accounts should at least balance in 1907.

General Prosperity

Whilst there were no signs of "boom" or undue inflation, the reports, both commercial and agricultural, from all parts of the province indicated a condition of general prosperity, improving business conditions and progress. In spite of adverse commentality by critics of taxation, the most encouraging reports were coming to hand from all our mining centres. They were becoming more and more accustomed to hear of dividends being declared, and advices from London indicated that capital was showing a tendency once more to seek investment in the province. But whilst, as stated, the signs of prosperity were general, there were two of the most important branches of local industry that needed careful attention at the hands of both provincial and federal authorities, viz., the fisheries and lumber.

Fisheries

1904 being the last of four years affecting the Fraser, only a small catch was expected. The actual catch of 458,000 cases was not more than one-third of the large catch of 1901, and even this result was largely due to the Northern rivers' catch being exceptionally good. Failure on the Fraser was more serious because hatcheries were unable to obtain sufficient eggs, and consequently it devolved upon both federal and provincial governments to take steps to restore the Fraser and conserve the Northern rivers. According to the report of 1903 the canning industry in 1902, comprising 75 establishments, valued at one and a half millions of dollars, gave employment to over 17,000 persons, a large number of whom were small ranchers and artizans, as well as fishermen, good customers of business houses, and consequently the question was a most vital one in the interests of the province.

The Lumber Trade

The lumber trade had not assumed the proportions it was entitled to during the past year, owing to the competition in the markets of the Northwest by American lumber. It was reported that during the first four months of this fiscal year, from July 1 the imports from the United States amounted to $934,000, money which, with a small duty on manufactured lumber, would have gone into the pockets of the millmen and loggers of this province. The provincial policy of restricting the export of logs had been very successful in building up the milling industry in the province, and with a little protection from the federal authorities our natural market would be conserved.

Better Terms

The memorial presented to the Dominion government should prove interesting reading not only to members of the House, but to the people of the country, when they considered the contention of the Quebec conference, that in aiding the development of the provinces by increased subsidies the revenues of the Dominion would be proportionately swelled. This applied especially to British Columbia, where universal sources of wealth were admitted, but where, owing to natural obstacles, the expenditure necessary to render these resources available, was much greater than in any other province. But as they had in the past contributed, and would in the future continue to contribute, to the Dominion finances by increasing the subsidies must reap a relative advantage. It was to be hoped that a friendly settlement of this serious question could be arrived at in the near future, or at least, that the request be granted that the matter be referred to an independent tribunal, as suggested in the case presented for the province.

Mining

The increase in mineral production for the past year was very gratifying. In the year 1903 the total production was under $17,500,000, while for 1904 the lowest estimate was nearly $20,000,000, and some reliable authorities placed it at about $21,000,000. This increase in value also pointed to largely increased output, as the value of copper in 1904 averaged one-half cent per pound less than in 1903, and that of lead was very slightly higher. The principal increases were in lead, which doubled the output of 1903, and in coke.

He hoped that in any amendment made in the future to the present system of taxing mines, the principle of rebated taxation would be applied to ores smelted in the province. A possible solution might be the certified pay roll of the mine exempted in addition to cost of freight and treatment with the two per cent. tax raised sufficiently to meet the case and a rebate of 50 per cent. of the tax made to all ores smelted in British Columbia.

Fruit Growing

Fruit growing bade fair to soon become one of our most important industries. A few years ago pioneers perceived the possibilities of the country in this respect and their efforts and proved successful in showing that British Columbia could hold her own with any portion of the Dominion. An example of this was that in 1903. Messrs. Stirling & Co. of Kelowna shipped a carload of apples to Glasgow, which arrived in good condition and sold at about 6s. per box, while Eastern apples were selling at $1 per barrel (equal to 3½ boxes). This caused numerous inquiries from persons who saw the fruit. A similar shipment from the Okanagan to Australia was equally successful; whilst on two occasions in the last few months British Columbia fruit captured the gold medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's show in London. The object of the government had not been so much to seek a market by exhibiting in England as to demonstrate to intending imigrants the advantages offered by the province. At the present time they had markets near at hand which consumed all of our productions, and there were still large areas of land capable of being brought into use for this purpose. In addition to the exhibitions in England a display was made in Winnipeg last August which was so successful that they were asked to repeat it at Brandon, with the result not only of making their position in those markets more secure, but of sending a large number of emigrants from the Prairie Province and Territories across the mountains to British Columbia. In addition to this, canneries were to be established at New Westminster, Hammond, and Victoria, so that there was everything to encourage this branch of enterprise. The abnormally dry season had the effect of reducing the crop of last year. Still an increase of nearly 500 tons was recorded. The shipments of fruit last year exceeded those of the preceding year by 466 tons. The value of the fruit shipped was estimated at $240,000, and it was estimated that the total value of crop marketed exceeded $500,000. The area of land in orchard in 1901 was 7,430 acres. It was estimated that new orchards were planted in 1902 covering 6,000 acres, making a total of 13,430 acres engaged in fruit raising.

It was pleasant to be able to report a large increase in the production of butter, which amounted last year to about 1,500,000 lbs., or about 25% of the consumption. There were now fourteen creameries in the province, which produced about 1,210,000 lbs. of butter, and paid in cash to their patrons $272,620. This showed a satisfactory increase. In 1902 the production of our creameries was 715,842 lbs.; in 1903 it was 958,845; in 1904 it was 1,210,006. However, there was still much to be done, as butter to the value of $1,179,511 was imported last year. The total importation of agricultural products imported in 1904 amounted to $7,199,438, an increase of $1,451,930 in two years, pointing to the conclusion that the consumption of the province had materially increased possibly from accessions to the population in the province, increased trade with the Yukon and, perhaps, with the Orient.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow was warmly applauded upon taking his seat.

Mr. Murphy moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House rose.

Steele, Briggs' Seeds

are the Best that grow.

YOU can't afford to waste weeks and months of time and energy in growing so called cheap or Bargain Seeds. What you want is FULL SIZED PACKAGES at popular prices. Seeds that are TESTED AND TRIED. No disappointment with them. Your money's worth every time. If you want to make a success of your year's work, insist on getting

STEELE, BRIGGS' SEEDS

not merely because we say so, but because they are known from one end of Canada to the other to be absolutely reliable. You get what you think you are getting every time. Never any guesswork as to results. We make sure in advance that the seeds are right, and guarantee values to be always the best.

If your dealer can't supply you, send to us for Catalogue, and order direct by mail.

The STEELE, BRIGGS' SEED CO., Limited

TORONTO, Ont., HAMILTON, Ont., and WINNIPEG, Man.

AN EMPTY VICTORY.

British Government Declines to Be Led From Stand on Fiscal Question.

London, March 29.—In the House of Commons tonight a vote of censure on Premier Balfour's fiscal policy was unanimously carried, the ministerialists abstaining from voting.

The session was a repetition of the session of March 22, when a resolution introduced by Mr. Ainsworth (Free Trade Liberal), condemning the government's proposition to impose a general duty on manufactured goods, was vetoed by a vote of 254 to 2. The ministerial front benches tonight were deserted and only a dozen Unionists, principally Free Traders, were present when Mr. Walton (Liberal) moved a resolution, as follows:

"In view of the declaration made by the prime minister, this House thinks it necessary to record its condemnation of his policy of fiscal retaliation."

The opposition had hoped that, in view of the fact that this was a vote of censure, the government would take up the challenge, and would not adhere to its declared intention of ignoring fiscal resolutions of the private members. But Mr. Balfour declined to be drawn out and the opposition were driven to address denunciatory speeches to empty benches and reap the indirect benefit of the government's refusal to fight when challenged.

Mr. Walton's motion was carried without a division.

In reply to an enquiry by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Speaker said the motion would be recorded as carried nem com.

DON'T BE HYPNOTISED,

Hoodwinked, hoodooed, or over-persuaded into accepting a substitute for Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription with its record of nearly 40 years, embracing hundreds of thousands of cures of woman's peculiar ailments. It's the only remedy for woman's ills sold by druggists, that is not full of "booze"—poor whisky, or bad alcohol.

A guarantee of $1000 is offered that "Favorite Prescription" contains no alcohol, opium or other harmful drug. Keeps in any climate.

"Favorite Prescription" is a powerful invigorating tonic, and imparts strength to the whole system and to the womb and its appendages in particular. For overworked, "worn-out," "run-down," debilitated teachers, milliners, dressmakers, seamstresses, "shop-girls," housekeepers, nursing mothers, and feeble women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the greatest earthly boon, being unequaled as an appetizing cordial and restorative tonic.

It's an insult to your intelligence for a dealer to attempt to palm off upon you an alcoholic *substitute* for this world-famed medicine. You *know* what you want. It's his business to *meet that want*. When he urges some *substitute* he's thinking of the larger profit he'll make—not of your welfare.

$50,000 GIVEN AWAY, in copies of The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, a book this sold to the extent of 508,000 copies a few years ago, at $1.50 per copy. Last year we gave away 680,000 worth of these invaluable books. This year we shall give away 650,000 worth of them. Will you share in this benefit? If so, send only 21 one-cent stamps to cover cost of mailing only for book in stiff paper covers, or 50 stamps for cloth-bound. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

If out of health, write to old Dr. Pierce. He will send you good, fatherly, professional advice without charge.

Pierce's Pellets. These sugar-coated little Pellets are the smallest, the easiest to take, and the easiest in the way they act. No griping, no violence, no disturbance to the system, diet or occupation. They are the Original Little Liver Pills, first put up by old Dr. R. V. Pierce, over 40 years ago. They have been much imitated but never equaled.

They come in vials, always fresh and reliable; a convenient vest-pocket remedy.

MRS. MAYBRICK AGAIN.

Appears as Material Witness in Long-pending Civil Suit.

Washington, D. C., March 28.—Mrs. Florence Elizabeth Maybrick appeared before a notary here today to make depositions in a suit technically known as Caroline E. Von Roques vs. David W. Armstrong et al, a case involving tracts of valuable land in Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. Since the institution of the case in 1893, it has been pending in the Chancery court of Richmond, awaiting Mrs. Maybrick's evidence. Mrs. Maybrick is a witness in the case for her mother, the Baroness Von Roques.

Mrs. Maybrick today acknowledged, while in prison, signing some papers brought to her by the United States consul, who told her that they related to the conveyance of certain Kentucky lands in which she was interested. She was asked if her mother had received her share of the $3,000 paid to Mr. Armstrong in March, 1889, by the Kentucky Land Union Company, and if that would have affected her trial. She replied that this money, which had not been received, would have enabled her to bring witnesses from Norfolk, Virginia, by whom she could have proved her husband's death was due to natural causes. This statement, and, in fact, nearly all Mrs. Maybrick's testimony was objected to. The cross-examination developed that the defence will endeavor to show that the plaintiff had not been defrauded of any money or title to property.

THE BRAVERMAN ESTATE

Amounts to Fifty-four Thousand Dollars—The Various Bequests.

The will of the late Isador Braverman has been admitted to probate. The distribution of his estate, which, deducting debts, amounts to $54,550, is as follows:

To the Provincial Royal Jubilee hospital, $300.

To the Jewish congregation Emanuel, $200; to be used in renovating the synagogue either outside or inside, or both, and conditional that prayers be said on the occasion of each anniversary of the death of the testator.

To the Jewish congregation at Plescheu, Germany, twelve months after death, the sum of $250, free of legacy duty.

To his nephew, David, son of Isaac Braverman, of Plescheu, Germany, if he should be living, the sum of $500.

To his niece, Bertha Bernheim, widow of Edmund Bernheim, the sum of $500.

All the rest of his estate to his wife for her sole use and benefit. The estate consists of realty and personal property.

FOUL BAY FOR BATHERS

Tourist Association Takes Lease of Property and Will Erect Pavilion.

At an important meeting of the executive committee of the Tourist Association yesterday it was decided to proceed at once with the carrying out of the proposed bathing scheme at Foul Bay. A lease has been taken of 250 feet frontage, with 250 feet depth, of the westerly section of the bay, for a term of five years, with the option of purchase. Plans have already been drawn, and building will be commenced very shortly for a bathing pavilion in one corner of the pretty bay—a neat two storey structure, of the Oriental type of architecture. The upper storey will be utilized as a band stand or observation promenade. Below will be 24 dressing rooms, office quarters, shower baths, lavatories and toilets. The building will cost approximately $750. Stages will be run at popular prices until such time as an arrangement is made with the tramway company for an extension of the line to the bay.

A letter was received from Mayor Keary of New Westminster, notifying the association that the Royal Agricultural Society had donated the sum of $250 to the funds of the organization.

Mrs. Baxter, supreme commander L. O. T. M., called attention to the provincial rally to be held in May, and asking the co-operation of the secretary in arranging an excursion from Seattle.

C. S. Hyman; acting minister of public works, re the suggested dredging of the Gorge, wrote saying he would be pleased to have an engineer's report on the matter, when he would give the same careful attention.

H. R. Gregory, of the Gregory Tours Company, of St. Louis, wrote thanking the association for literature, and asking for information in reference to local hotel accommodation. A Gregory excursion of one hundred people will be in Victoria some time in June.

The proprietors of Collier's Weekly wrote asking for a supply of photographs suitable for publication in their great Lewis and Clark exposition number, shortly to be issued. A large number will be sent.

The editor of the Four Track News wrote saying that he would be pleased to accept a suitable article on Victoria. The secretary was instructed to prepare the same. The Four Track News is the official organ of the New York Central lines, and has a circulation of 120,000 copies per month. It was decided to insert a full-page advertisement of Victoria in this publication for June, just previous to the opening of the Portland fair.

IN A GALE.

Liverpool, March 28.—The British bark Gunford, from San Francisco October 27, which arrived at this port recently, encountered a hurricane March 15 and was thrown on her beam ends. It was found necessary to jettison a considerable portion of the vessel's cargo.

COLORADO MINE FATALITY.

Victor, Colo., March 28.—Unconscious, but clinging with a death grip to the cable, Fred. Bhend was hoisted 1,350 feet at the Blue Bird mine and was revived after reaching the surface. With two companions he had been overcome by carbonic acid gas. Charles Jacobs was dead when taken out of the mine; his brother Edward was rescued alive.

Bourassa The Star Speaker

Discusses Loyalty of the French-Canadian Race and Rose-Colors History.

Montrealers Make Remarkable Proposal—Georgian Bay Canal Quietus.

Ottawa, Ont., March 28.—(Special.)—Henri Bourassa was the star attraction in the autonomy debate today. He said some rasping things, including a reference to Dr. Sproule and the Orange order as "the yellow hierarchy." He held that the future of Canada depended on freedom of education given to every settler of the Northwest, which, inside of a century, would be the dominating part of the Dominion; and recapitulating his campaign utterances of the past ten years, argued that the same measure of liberty of conscience should be accorded the Roman Catholic minority in the Far West as had been freely extended by the Catholics of Quebec to the Protestants of that province. The burden of his speech was that Canada owed its existence today to the loyalty of the French race and to the work done by the Roman Catholic hierarchy in perilious times, when the Protestants of Ontario were in rebellion against the Crown, and when, later on, there were troubles in the Northwest that could not have been downed but for the personal efforts of Archbishop Tache. "As long as the King won't go back on us, we won't go back on him," had been the stand of French-Canadians ever since they came under the British flag. They had preserved Canada in the past and their faith in British justice had never been shattered, hence their unswerving loyalty today.

The Kootenay, Cariboo and Pacific railway bill passed the Senate today.

A deputation of Toronto Liberals is here, wanting the election postponed in the centre division until June; but the government dare not acquiesce.

An influential deputation from Montreal saw the government today and urged a large appropriation to make it the national port of Canada by remitting all dues.

The railway committee today practically unanimously killed the bill to incorporate a company to build a canal from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario.

Blaine, of Peel, spoke against the separate schools, and Solicitor-General Lemeux for them. McCarthy, of Calgary, pronounced strongly in favor of giving the new provinces control of public lands.

JUDGMENT FOR THE WIDOW.

Boston, Mass., March 28.—Judgment for Mrs. Elva Ingersoll, widow of Robert G. Ingersoll, of New York, in the sum of $95,000 with interest, against the trustees of the estate of the late Andrew J. Davis, a wealthy mine owner of Butte, Montana, was ordered today by Judge Putnam of the United States Circuit court. Suit was instituted by Mrs. Ingersoll to recover fees for services which she claimed were given by her husband to the estate.

MARINE BARRACKS.

Washington, D. C., March 28.—The Panama canal commission today authorized the construction of a marine barracks at Ancon, Panama, at a cost of $65,000.

PAGE METAL GATES

3 feet wide, 4 feet high including hinges and latch $3.00
10 feet wide, 4 feet high, including hinges and latch 6.50
Other sizes in proportion.

Supplied by us or local dealer. 255

THE PAGE WIRE FENCE CO. LIMITED, Walkerville, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, St. John
E. G. PRIOR & CO. Limited, Agents, VANCOUVER, VICTORIA and KAMLOOPS

Contracted Bad Cold. Doctor Said, Serious!

Wanted To Send Him Three Hundred Miles To The Winnipeg Hospital.

Bottle and a Half of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup Cured.

Read what Mrs. A. G. Wheeler, Wasewa, Man., has to say about it:—"Please let me thank you for the great good that both my husband and my children have received from Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. One night when my husband came home from work he had contracted a very bad cold. He became so bad that he had to go to bed and send for the doctor. When the doctor came he pronounced it a very serious case, and wanted me to send him to the Winnipeg Hospital. This, I would not do, as it is about 300 miles to Winnipeg. I decided to try Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup and got four bottles of it. He only took one-and-a-half bottles before he was all right again and only lost a few days' work. I always keep it in the house for the children. Even the baby, seven months old, takes it and seems to like it, and as for myself I do not know what I would do without it. I think that every good housekeeper should keep a bottle on hand, for I know it will save many a doctor bill."

Price 25 cents. Put up in a yellow wrapper and three pine trees the trade mark. Refuse substitutes.

THE T. MILBURN CO., LIMITED, TORONTO, ONT.

Found Ca... Of Skel...

Ghastly Discovery i... er Island Prospec... Quatsino

Bad Weather Greatl... With Work of Seale... Mishaps.

Budget of Interesting... West Coast by ... Queen Cit...

STEAMER Queen ... Townsend, which ... yesterday from Ca... way ports on t... Island coast, brought ... budget of news. At Q... was learned of the disco... prospectors searching for... Cove of a cave in which ... were found. Raft Cove... ghastly find was made... Quatsino Sound and Sa... at the north end of the... The cave is one the sea... miners had no difficulty... With torches they inves... terior and saw a number... skeletons stretched on th... cavern. They made an e... the remains, which are n... be the relics of a debacle,... of long-since buried t... found that a number of t... split, a fact which indi... think the one-time owners... a violent end. It is m... though,, that the skeleto... the miners were those o... had been carried there ... being an old-time custom... Indians to place their d... Similar finds have been m... points on the Island coa... past.

The Queen City had ... passage. She was caught... gale of March 22, when ... Ella G. was lost at Clayo... buffeted considerably. C... send took shelter at H... storm was considered to ... worst experienced off the... for years. Several of ... schooners encountered th... Eva Marie and Dora ... feeling its effects. The ... all her canoes broken and... the deck of the vessel, ... schooner had her sails tor...

The Japanese sealing s... Maru, with Captain Rice... Victoria hunter, in