

HOUSE'S LABORS COME TO CLOSE

First Session of Twelfth Parliament Ended by Yesterday's Proceedings—Long List of Bills Assented To.

The first session of the twelfth parliament of British Columbia was brought to a close Thursday afternoon taking place at four in the afternoon, when His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor attended to formally assent some sixty-six additional bills made law during the past few weeks, and which, with the sixteen measures previously assented, give a total of eighty-two additions, out of ninety-five in all introduced, to the statute book for 1910—a worthy accomplishment for the eight weeks the just closed session has lasted. First in order of public interest and material importance, of course come the railway bills which preface a period of marked activity in the upbuilding of British Columbia, but of industrial activity generally, the preservation of the public health and safety, the improvement and enlargement of the free school system, and the betterment of Provincial conditions in a variety of ways—by roads, public works, etc.—have also important place in the new chapter added to the Provincial statute book.

The business of the closing day of the session was restricted to the morning sitting, when the Order paper was cleared with a celerity perhaps unprecedented, and with a minimum of sacrifice of related legislation. Chief victims among the fated innocents were the several measures standing in the name of the Socialist leader, Mr. Hawthorthwaite, which it may perhaps in fairness be said, the proposer did not regard as likely to commend themselves to the judgment of the House. These in their order were lost on the second reading, while Mr. Macgowan's favorite item of legislation—the bill to provide for dower for married women—was as effectually disposed of to the regret of the mover, by the adjournment of the House on the second reading being moved by Mr. Miller, of Grand Forks, and the bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act (Mr. Williams), to amend the Dentistry Act (Mr. Miller) and respecting the payment of wages (Mr. Williams), each of which was passed into oblivion on order for introductory reading. One other public measure in a private member's care—the bi-weekly pay-day bill of Mr. Ross, of Fernie—was lost, as were Mr. Hawthorthwaite's labor measures, upon the second reading.

Bills Assented To.

The galleries were filled with interested spectators when His Honor attended in the afternoon to formally prorogue the assembly, to formally inaugurate the session, and to give His Honor upon being seated upon the throne, was pleased to assent in His Majesty's name to following examples of accomplished legislation.

An Act to amend the Steam Boilers Inspection Act, 1901.

An Act to revise and consolidate the Companies Act, 1897, and amending Acts.

An Act to amend the Children's Protection Act, 1907.

An Act respecting liquor licenses and the traffic in intoxicating liquors.

An Act to amend the Land Act.

An Act regarding the inspection of tramways.

An Act for preserving the purchases of stock from losses by forged transfers.

An Act to amend the Bush Fires Act.

An Act to amend the Woodman's Lien for Wages Act.

An Act to amend the "Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, 1905.

An Act to amend the Municipal Clauses Act.

An Act to amend the Land Registry Act.

An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act.

An Act to repeal the Commercial Travellers' Licenses Act, 1907.

An Act to incorporate the city of Prince Rupert.

An Act to amend the Fire Inquiry Act.

An Act to provide for the inspection of premises, works, wires and appliances generating, transmitting or supplying electrical energy.

An Act to amend the Supreme Court Act.

An Act to amend the County Courts Act.

An Act to ratify an agreement bearing date the seventeenth day of January, A. D. 1910, between His Majesty the King and the Canadian Northern Railway company.

An Act to incorporate the Canadian Northern Pacific Railway company.

An Act to ratify an agreement bearing date the twenty-eighth day of February, 1910, between His Majesty the King and the Kettle River Valley Railway company.

An Act to amend the Midway and Vernon Railway Act, 1902.

An Act to amend the Coal Mines Act.

An Act to authorize the repurchase by the Crown of railway subsidy lands.

An Act respecting the construction of sewers in unincorporated districts.

An Act to incorporate the British Columbia and Alaska Railway company.

An Act to incorporate the Port Moody, Indian River and Northern Railway company.

An Act to ratify, ratify and confirm the incorporation of the Graham Island Railway company.

An Act to incorporate the Northern British Columbia Telephone company.

An Act to revive, ratify and confirm the incorporation of the Graham Island Railway company.

An Act to amend the Howe Sound, Pemberton Valley and Northern Railway Company Act, 1907.

An Act to incorporate the British Columbia Central Railway Company.

An Act to incorporate the Cariboo, Barkerville and Willow River Valley Railway company.

An Act to incorporate the Pacific and Alaska Railway company.

An Act to incorporate the Comox Logging and Railway company.

An Act to amend the Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1900.

An Act to amend the False Creek Foresters Act, 1904.

An Act to incorporate the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of Caledonia.

An Act to incorporate the Northern Vancouver Island Railway company.

An Act respecting an agreement between the City of Victoria and the British Columbia Electric Railway company.

An Act to incorporate the British Empire Insurance company.

An Act to incorporate the Penticon Railway company.

An Act respecting items of mechanics wages earners and others.

An Act to validate by-law No. 294 of the city of Nelson passed on the 11th day of October, A. D. 1909.

An Act to amend the Hospital Act, 1902.

An Act to amend the Timber Manufacture Act, 1908.

An Act to validate and amend by-law No. 83 of the city of North Vancouver City, 1909.

An Act to amend the New Westminster Act, 1888 and amending Acts.

An Act to amend the Provincial Elections Act.

An Act to amend the Timber Mark Act, 1903.

An Act to ratify an agreement between His Majesty the King and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway company, bearing date the twenty-first day of October, 1909.

An Act to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act.

His Honor's Speech.

Immediately afterwards His Honor took leave of Parliament with the following speech:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

In relieving you from the arduous duties of the session, it affords me pleasure to express my high appreciation of the care and attention you have characterized your deliberations on the many important subjects submitted for your consideration.

The ratification of the agreements with the Canadian Northern and the Kettle River Valley Railways, assuring the early construction of these important lines of communication, will, I feel assured, prove of immense importance to the province, and the further development and prosperity of the province.

The exceedingly satisfactory statement of the finances and the revenue for the year, which has enabled you to decrease substantially the burden of taxation, and, at the same time, to make most generous appropriations for the public works and the many necessities arising from the gratifying growth of settlement and industries.

The bill for the incorporation of the City of Prince Rupert is an evidence of the growing importance of the northern part of the province.

The provision for the further encouragement of Agriculture and the various other measures which you have assented to, will, I trust, add materially to the welfare of the people.

I thank you for the very liberal supplies granted for the public service.

In taking leave of you, I desire to express my best wishes for your continued welfare, and to hope that the fullest measure of success may attend your labors on behalf of your country.

The only incident of the occasion apart from due formalities occurred upon the exit of His Honor, the member for Esquimalt permitting his unchallengeable loyalty to outrun his memory of parliamentary formalities so that while the House was in the entry of Mr. Speaker and the Provincial Secretary's announcement to the effect that it was His Honor's will and pleasure that parliament should stand adjourned, Mr. Jardine's voice rang out loud and clear in the first strains of the anthem so dear to loyal British hearts.

Many of the members of course took up the song, and frankly the inter-upted Minister was obliged to almost shout:

"Stop! Stop! Not yet!"

And Mr. Jardine "stopped," regretfully and confused.

Then, Mr. Young thereupon made his announcement, and the deterring flood of loyal melody re-echoed through the halls so soon to be deserted.

And the session was at an end.

Slaughtered Bills.

Little time was wasted upon the innocents foredoomed to sacrifice at yesterday morning's sitting, the first of these taken up being the amendment of the member for Nanaimo to extend the operation of the eight-hour law in smelters to mechanics engaged in the plying. This measure the Premier felt impelled to oppose, as likely to disprove the investment of capital in smelting enterprises.

The vote was taken forthwith, the member for Nanaimo finding his following considerably larger than in any previous division of the eventual success.

Lost by 26 to 11 was the verdict recorded by the Clerk of the House, Messrs. Hawthorthwaite, Wright, Hams, Jardine, Ross, Schofield, Braden, Jardine, Wright, Miller, Callanan and Shatford.

No division was taken upon Mr. Hawthorthwaite's motion for second reading of his bill to amend the Metalliferous Mines Act—another proposed extension of the eight-hour day principle, referring to "glory holes" in the same category as shafts and tunnel workings.

The Premier held that this was matter for arrangement between employer and employee, and that the interests of each were liable to prejudice by any undue legislative interference.

The Workmen's Compensation Act amendment bill also standing in the name of Nanaimo's member was held by the First Minister as out of order, as originating with private members, the revenues of the crown being in-

directly affected. As consolation for the member for Nanaimo, the Premier at the same time volunteered a promise that during the recess the government would look into the matter proposed to be dealt with, trying the suggestion of his friend from the coal city most serious consideration.

Mr. Speaker did not regard the special point raised by the Prime Minister as tenable, but had other constitutional objections to the bill, which vanished by being ruled out of order on these grounds.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite's bill to provide for three a year inspection by health officials of all mining, logging, railway and similar camps was voted down upon the statement being made by the Provincial Secretary that remodeling the Health Act was at the present time receiving governmental consideration, in which connection it was most probable that the provision advanced by Mr. Hawthorthwaite would be incorporated with the general law.

The establishment of a general eight-hour working day in British Columbia was at the Premier's suggestion laid over for another year in order that the House might have the advantage of considering in detail with this question, the report and conclusions of the commission now making inquiries in similar matters in the province of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Macgowan on Dower.

Then came the interesting bill of Mr. Macgowan, respecting dower. Recognizing the necessity of brevity, Vancouver's third member succinctly summarized his views upon the measure which he recommended to the House while urging its incorporation in the statute book. Said he:

"The present Mr. Speaker has been a most important session. We have heard from the Premier about his special railway policy and the grand development that is in prospect. His inauguration, a most auspicious pronouncement for British Columbia. We have heard from the Minister of Finance, in his Budget speech, of the splendid position of the country, financial and otherwise. There has been a variety of other important legislation to which I might refer, but at this late hour perhaps such reference would be unavailing and even out of place. I simply note these in passing because, I have not visited the House in commenting upon any of these measures in their passage. Now connecting these matters of legislation with the Dower bill, I think this may be regarded as a most appropriate time for the introduction and passage of the same, as a step in the right direction, looking toward progress in legislation and demonstration of British Columbia's breadth of mind and sense of justice. Why should we not have such a bill as this upon our statute book, making fair provision for our wives, our mothers and our sisters? Woman's rights, as you well know, through all the civilized ages have properly been acknowledged. The right of Dower was, indeed, established by Magna Charta, and followed up by the statutes of many different countries, affirming and adding to what Magna Charta had accomplished by the existing Dower Act of British Columbia, curtails—or in fact does away with—all the benefits conferred in this regard by Magna Charta. These benefits, rights of dower are practically taken away by sections five to eleven of our act—all the rights of women in their husband's property. Under the existing act of this province the only legal interest that a wife has in her husband's property is after his death, provided that he had not already encumbered it or given it away. And it is to the moment of his death, it has been argued that a dower bill such as I am now introducing would interfere with the real transfer of real estate in this province, as a wife's signature would necessarily be required to all transfers. I may say that this bill contains a clause that very effectively meets this objection, giving as it does the right of a wife to give a power-of-attorney for her husband. If he is a good husband he will experience no difficulty in procuring this power-of-attorney. If he is a bad husband he does not care to do so. I have also suggested that this bill, if made law, would interfere with the payment to the Government of the Land Act duties, and that (as thus interfering with the revenues of the Crown) it is beyond the province of a private member to introduce such a provision. In reply to this I might say that this bill would possibly necessitate some few, and very few, amendments to the Land Registry Act. It found necessary the succession duties part of the matter being very easily arranged by making the duties of a married woman liable for the succession duties that are chargeable to bequests to trustees, and very small. Trifling amendments to the Land Act and the Succession Duties Act would fully and completely cover this objection. I cannot resist for a moment that any member of this House would vote against this reasonable and necessary bill. I have repeatedly spoken on this subject at other times, I need not cover the familiar ground with any particularity at this late hour of the session. I move the second reading of the bill."

I move the adjournment of the debate on Mr. Hams, rising amid the laughter of the House.

And thus the coup de grace was given to the Married Woman's Dower bill of the third member for Vancouver.

More innocents.

Mr. Ross' bill providing for a bi-weekly pay-day in certain industries was opposed by the Premier on the ground that such legislation had in experience proven the reverse of satisfactory, while in any event the Government could not accept a measure dealing with only one section of the community—the operation of the bill being specifically limited to certain labor having a monthly pay roll of not less than \$50.00.

The motion for second reading went down, Mr. Ross obtaining the support of Messrs. Schofield, Wright, McGuire, Schofield, Tidall, Bright, Jardine, Hawthorthwaite and Williams.

The Shops' Half-Holiday bill of Mr. Hawthorthwaite, as well as an amendment by the same member to extend the provisions of the legislation identified with the settlement of the Settlers' Rights' question within the province, referring to "glory holes" had not applied for grants within the prescribed period, were defeated.

Several minor and technical alterations to the bill in this regard were accepted by the House prior to the final passage of the legislation in question.

Third reading of the several remaining items of Government and amendment bills also standing in the name of the legislative labors of the session, and the House rose at 1:30 p.m. and will sit again at 3:30 for formal prorogation.

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A NIGHT CHINE THEATRE

When the strident ponderous notes of Wagner become but dull insipid jingles—when the deep gloom of modern drama seem like shallow artifices—when the mystic, the spiritual, the ideal dramatic literature all appear as different grades of materialism—then, and only then, is it up to Mr. Tired and Jaded Playgoer to attend a performance at the Chinese theatre. He will then, no doubt be in a mood to appreciate it and to reward the artist with the attention of well regulated applause, and he will be able to cherish that illusion, least until they start playing. The fact that there are a motley crew of unemployed laundries, street cleaners, fishermen, lounging over their instruments of torture in various unbecoming but delectable Oriental postures, smoking vile tobacco, chattering, nuisances, might add a slight touch of novelty to the scene, but nothing more.

The total lack of scenery, grand draperies, footlights and properties might throw him off his stride for a moment or two but he will soon forget it for the band is about to play. The drummer takes off his coat, the leader takes off his overcoat, and he, seizing in his yellow fists a pair of cymbals, full three feet across and five inches wide, strikes a chord of characters (evidently some advertisement) he kicks a sleeping fiddler on the shins, cusses the fiddle player, gives orders to the drummers and then—O, pity—the bunch is off in a bunch.

It seems that everyone is for himself, blowing or pounding or scraping according to the dictates of his own conscience, each striving to be the whole show. By the time Mr. Tired and Jaded Playgoer recovers his scattered senses and is resigned to the awful discord, he becomes conscious of a sort of motif hidden away in all the noise. His surprise grows to wonder when he discovers a bland musician stealthily engaged in an attempt to tune his stringed instrument. Fascinated by the slight touch of this paradoxical manoeuvre, he watched the other players with increased interest. His well trained ears have fallen upon a note, a note of sharp. He finds that the motions of the hands of two fiddlers are identical. When one is on the up stroke the other is on the down stroke, when one pauses the other pauses, long notes, short notes are all bowed in unison. They play music no more are they watching each other, which shows there is collusion or conspiracy about it somewhere.

Then came an extra deftening clash of cymbals and howl of reeds a gorgeous actor makes his entrance. His black hair covering his forehead, his gold and satins, all embroidered with gold and bright colors, and in his hand he wears a wand. Accompanied by the band, which has become obstreperous than ever he begins an awkward dance. Without a word he walks up the stage and down the stage, across stage and back again. The step is occasionally varied by some motion of the hands or head or feet, while the band plays on. The step is occasionally varied by some motion of the hands or head or feet, while the band plays on.

The yellow audience sits entranced by the dancer's legs and he is riding a horse in just the same manner that little Willie, at home, rides his daddy's cane. Suddenly the dancer in

MINING NEWS

Prospecting in South Australia.

In South Australia a miner's right authorizing its holder to prospect on mineral lands for minerals or metals, and to obtain leases of such lands, is now being granted for a period of one year. Gold leases have a maximum area of twenty acres (one man to every five acres), mineral leases of forty acres (one man every 10 acres), and miscellaneous leases of from 40 to 640 acres. Gold claims, 20x30 ft. alluvial, and 100x50 ft. rock, must be worked constantly. Leases are granted for a term of 42 years; gold and mineral leases are granted for a term of 21 years and oil leases 10 years. The rental on coal and oil leases is 6d. per acre per annum until coal or oil is found in paying quantities, after which is per acre and a royalty of 6d. per pound of net profits are payable.

Conservation of Coal.

The necessity for the conservation of coal and the safety of the men engaged in the production thereof have probably been more talked and written about than many other conditions in our country in times past, and are constantly being discussed by the Government and the public by statisticians announcing in bold head-lines the short time over which the present supply of coal will last. While these statements as to the length of time the coal supply will last are much at variance, because of new being discovered from time to time and also the greater recovery of coal obtained by the methods now as compared with those of past times; this variance in time has been so great that the public have been led to believe that the question of the time when the coal will be exhausted is sufficiently far in the future that they need pay little attention to it. It is, however, a matter of general conclusion reached by the average person; therefore, the method of bringing this matter to the attention of the public along the lines of saving them into the consideration of the question may possibly be condoned.

It has been stated by those in connection with the U. S. Geological Survey that in the production of about 145,000,000 tons of coal during 1909 in the United States, 250,000,000 tons were lost or destroyed; at least rendered in-