chair. The discussion was resumed on section 5. On the question of bonds. Mr. Booth moved in amendment to keep the bond clause in the act.

Mr. Jos. Martin thought it a good rule to continue to have security. There was nothing new in the proposal as the provision had been in force in the province for many years. An amendment to the amendment, by Mr. Pooley, to do away with section 15 altogether, was lost.

Certificate of Character.

Mr. Eberts moved that sub-section B be struck out—"that the applicant be 21 years of age and has never been convicted of a felony." He thought that was an absurdity, and should be done away with.

Mr. Jos. Martin said that in a new province like British Columbia, especially in the mining districts, a great many applications were made for licenses by undesirable characters. In the past this provision of the act had proved a great protection to the public, the necessity of providing bonds keeping out many persons who were not fit to be given a license. The chief of police would testify that the requirement of a bond had had a most beneficial effect in preventing the man known to be a hard case going into the liquor business and running a place in violation of the law. Owing to the provision as to bonds, many improper applications throughout the province had been ruled out. To do away with this provision would be to strike

A Blow at Temperance

in this province. He was not an extreme temperance man himself (laughter); he had never supported the demands of the extreme temperance community, but he had always supported anything that would place reasonable restrictions upon dealers in liquors. The exaction of a bond was directed in the interest of the respectable liquor dealers, hotel keepers and others. This was a class that ought to be protected. They never had any difficulty in complying with the provisions of this act. It protects them and puts down undesirable applicants. If the House did away with this provision it would be encouraging a class who had no real sympathizers in the House or out of it.

Mr. Booth was of opinion the temperance party in this province would be heard from to some purpose if this bond clause were taken off.

Mr. A. W. Smith held that if the law were carried out as it ought to be bonds would not be necessary.

Section 5 was passed.

Irregular Applications.

Section 7 of the bill amends section 18 of the old act regarding applications for license made at other times than the regular time, and imposing a penalty of $10 for such indulgence.

Mr. Prentice said it seemed to him that if a man applied for a license out of time he ought to pay for the privilege.

Mr. Turner said it was not right to place the man who applied at the regular time in a worse position than the man who applied at an irregular time.

Mr. Jos. Martin moved that section 7 be rescinded. Carried. Mr. Martin then moved that the word ten ($10) in line 5 be changed to twenty ($20).

Mr. Kellie questioned Mr. Martin's right to offer such a motion, and it was declared out of order.

Roars of Laughter.

Mr. Helgesen said this act had been called one of the best acts put through last session. He could assure everybody on the floor of the House that there never was a more unpopular law passed by this House (roars of laughter, in which Mr. Joseph Martin heartily joined). It was a burdensome law, especially upon the small roadside innkeepers whose places were so convenient to the travelling public.

Rural Licenses.

Mr. Eberts complimented the government upon their determination to give very full consideration to the question of reducing the license fees in the country districts. As had been frequently pointed out, the present fee of $100 bore with undue severity on a class who were unable to pay it.

Proximity of Licensed Premises.

Mr. McPhillips moved that a new section, 26 A, be inserted in the act. It is to the effect that no license shall be issued for premises, for the sale of intoxicating liquors, which are situated within 300 feet, measured on the street line, of any church, college or other public educational institution.

Mr. Green objected to this as it would work hardship in many towns in the mining districts.

Mr. McPhillips's motion was adopted.

An Imputation Challenged.

On the motion to rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again, Mr. Joseph Martin said that he would like to see those amendments to the bill printed for the benefit of the House. Almost every section had been altered more or less, and it was impossible for the members to have a clear understanding of the bill as it now stood without this. While the government could afford to put hasty legislation through this House, it was the duty of the opposition to guard against anything of the kind, for they would be responsible in part if they permitted it.

Hon. Mr. Henderson rose to a point of order. He could not allow such an insinuation as that just made by the hon. member for Vancouver city to pass unchallenged. It ill became him to charge this government with hasty legislation——

Mr. Martin (loudly)—That's not a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Henderson—It is. The Attorney-General then went on to criticise Mr. Martin for his allegation, the latter gentleman costantly interrupting.

It was decided to have the amendments to the various sections printed for the information of the members.

Night Sessions.

The Premier in moving the adjournment of the House till 2 o'clock next day, said that it had been thought best by the government to hold night sittings on Wednesday and Thursday evenings of this week, for the greater dispatch of business, which was piling up on the order paper. Mr. Helmcken wanted the government to pass over Thursday night, as on that evening the annual ball of the Native Sons' Society was to be held, and he did not wish to miss that.

The plea was negatived and the intimation of the government stands.

Atlin Administration.

In reply to the resolution of Mr. McBride, asking for a return of correspondence between His Honor the Lieut.-Governor and the Executive Council, with reference to the Bennett Lake and Atlin mining divisions, and their administration.

Hon. Mr. Semlin informed the House that there "is no such correspondence on record, but I present herewith certain amendments to the Placer Mining act suggested by His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, after his return from the said mining districts."

The memorandum is dated the 15th August, 1899, at Government House, Secretary, and reads:

"I have the honor to invite your attention to the memoranda hereunder of suggested amendments to the Placer Mining act, and to ask that you lay the same before my Executive Council for consideration:

"1. Free miners' certificates for British subjects—entitling the holder to all privileges of a free miner—should not have an affidavit of citizenship thereon, to be administered by the Gold Commissioner at the time of issuance. Miners' certificates for aliens should be on paper of a distinctly different color.

"2. All claims should be numbered and recorded by number, and not by name as at present.

"3. Discovery claims should be allowed to one person 400 feet along the creek by 800 feet wide; to two persons 800 feet by 800; to three persons 1,100 feet by 800; and to four persons 1,400 feet by 800, partly on each side of the creek or all on one side.

"4. All other claims should be 200 feet by 200.

"5. All fractions between claims should be held by the government, to be sold at stated periods by public auction.

"6. All claims should be surveyed by a government surveyor, for which the owner should pay a fee of $5.

"7. An annual fee of $10 should be charged for all certificates, and a fee of $5 for each record or lay-over.

"8. Any person who stakes a claim and—without reasonable excuse—neglects to record it, or to remove his stakes within four days (if within ten miles of a recorder's office) should be subject to a heavy fine or cancellation of his certificate—an extra day being allowed for each every three miles additional distance from the recorder's office.

"9. Only one record should be granted of any one claim, making provision, however, for any other claimant to apply to the gold commissioner or a judge to set aside a prior record on the ground that the same was improperly made, or has become forfeit.

"I make these suggestions for consideration of council as a result of personal observation during my recent visit to Atlin, of the working and effect of the Placer Mining Act and regulations on the development of the district, and as a result also of conversation had with experienced and reliable miners and mining engineers resident there. In this connection I may be permitted to say that while I strongly approve of the reservation of our placer mines for British subjects only, nevertheless I think that leases of placer ground that is suitable for hydraulic mining only may very properly be issued to aliens, as the hydraulic grounds apparently cannot be worked out for a long period of years, and a speedy development of the mining district would result from encouraging extensive hydraulicing operations. As stated in my letter of yesterday, I thoroughly endorse Mr. Graham's suggestion as to modifying the terms of the mining leases at present issued, namely:

"Sub-section 92 has been complied with, and I would suggest that rentals be fixed at $50 per annum, and that some modification be made in the requirements as to expenditure. I might point out that the rst years of operating the large placer grounds considerable expenditure has to be incurred, after which the necessity of employing so much labor is not apparent. Further, capital is very shy of accepting such conditions as are entailed in the body of our mining leases. I think any modifications in these requirements would be appreciated.

"The present form contains stipulations that unnecessarily hamper and restrict those engaged in hydraulic operations, and so discourage investment of capital in that direction, without any corresponding advantage to the public in so far as I can see. I enclose the form of lease at present issued, and would suggest that something in the nature of the following clause might advantageously be substituted for the parts therein ruled out:

"'. . . . shall and will during the continuance of the term hereby granted, save where prevented by stress of weather or unavoidable accident, or granted permission by the gold commissioner of the district, represent and in a thoroughly miner-like and effectual manner, work and mine for the precious metals and minerals in and upon and under all and singular the premises hereby demised or intended so to be, and shall and will expend upon the premises hereby demised or in such manner as shall conduce to the development of the same, a sum of $1,000 at least each and every year during the continuance of the said term. Provided, however, that should the lease or his assigns form a company for the purpose of acquiring, developing and working adjacent mining ground which has been or shall be demised under a separate mining lease or leases, then the said sum of $1,000 shall not require to be expended upon the separate parcel or parcels of mining ground so held under a lease or leases, or assignment thereof, but the proviso for such expenditure shall be taken to be and considered as fulfilled by an annual expenditure of the said sum on any such parcel of mining ground or part thereof as shall be so acquired and worked as a consolidated mining property by a company as aforesaid, and the covenants and conditions herein, or in any such lease contained, shall be treated and construed as if the mining grounds so consolidated and worked by a company were the premises herein, or therein, demised, save and except that the covenants and conditions in regard to annual rent shall continue and remain in force for each parcel of mining ground separately demised.'

"'And that he will permit the gold commissioner for the district, or any person or persons authorized by him, during the said term to enter upon and in the said premises from time to time, as may seem reasonable or expedient to the said commissioner, for the purpose of viewing the workings and watching the progress of the work, and will permit him or them to examine the state and condition thereof, and to ascertain the quantity of work done; and to ascertain whether the said lessee or his assigns are working the premises in accordance with the covenants, conditions and agreements herein contained. Provided always and these presents are upon the express condition that if the said lessee or his assigns shall fail to pay the rent hereinbefore provided for, the payment of the same, or if default shall be made in any of the covenants, conditions and agreements herein contained, then this demise shall become forfeited, and these presents and the term hereby granted shall absolutely cease and determine and be void, and it shall be lawful for the gold commissioner of the district immediately thereupon to re-enter into and upon the premises, without any compensation to the said lessee or his assigns for work done or improvements to the said premises.

"'In witness whereof, etc., etc.'

"I have only to add that I shall be pleased to further discuss the suggestions hereby submitted at any such time as my ministers may desire."

Against Eight-Hour Law.

The following is the petition of the Kaslo Board of Trade protesting against the eight-hour law:

To His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, the Speaker and the hon. members of the Legislative Assembly of the province of British Columbia. The petition of the Kaslo Board of Trade proseth that the Metalliferous Mines Inspection Act, commonly known as the eight-day amendment, be repealed;

And that an act be substituted therefor in such terms as will constitute eight hours a standard day's work in all mining operation underground, but which will impose no penalties where by mutual agreement between the employer and the employed, overtime is worked.

Your petitioners beg to submit for the consideration of your honorable body the following facts:

(1) That the Kaslo Board of Trade is the only board of trade within the limits of the Slocan electoral riding.

(2) That in this riding are located the mining camps of Sandon, Silverton, Slocan City, McGuigan, Whitewater, Ainsworth, Lardo and Duncan, the camps which have produced nearly all the silver-lead ore so far mined in the province.

(3) That the commercial prosperity of the whole riding, and particularly of Kaslo, is contingent upon the steady and vigorous prosecution of work in the mines.

(4) That since the date at which the eight-hour law (so called) came into effect, viz., June 1st., 1899, all of the large and many of the small mines of the Slocan riding have been idle or nearly so.

(5) that the shipment of ores from the riding has fallen from a total of 32,429 tons, worth $2,779,653, in the year 1898, to a total of 18,078 tons worth $1,522,642 in the year 1899; and that for the seven months, from June 1st to December 31st, the shipments have fallen from a total of 20,660 tons, worth $1,675,222, in 1898, to a total of 4,904 tons, worth $363,954, in 1899, and the number of men has been, we believe, for the period in question, less by one thousand than it would have been had the eight-hour law not come into force.

(6) That the effect of this diminution of output and employment has been, and is now, great distress among the merchants, hotel men, those engaged in the building trades, manufacturing, transportation and professional lines of business, all of which suffer in sympathy with the depression of the staple industry of the district.

(7) That the utmost harmony and good-will existed between the miner and their employers up to the time of the enactment of this masure; and that complaints as to the condition of the mines, or as to the rate of wages, were seldom or never heard.

(8) That the news of the passage of the measure in question was received in the Slocan riding with astonishment. There had never been any agitation in favor of such a change, no request for it, no mention of it.

(9) That the rate of wages paid in the Slocan camp, prior to the passage of this amendment, was $3.50 per day, which was a rate 50c per day higher than was paid in the neighboring camps.

(10) We beg to call special attention to this fact, that the mines of the Slocan camp are nearly all worked by means of tunnels. There are few deep shafts, and, as a rule, perfect ventilation.

(11) We submit that in any case the eight-hour shift is no adequate guarantee against injury to the health of the men. Eight hours is entirely too long for men to remain in working where the air is foul; and the remedy for such a state of things where it exists is to be found in the greater rigidity of inspection, and a more vigorous enforcement of the law in regard to ventilation.

(12) In tunnel mines that are well ventilated, it cannot be pretended that labor is any more exhausting than are many kinds of outdoor employment, while the danger of accident and the exposure to extremes of temperature are much less. Men once accustomed to mining are unwilling to take outdoor work.

(13) Hence whether this enactment is regarded as a privilege extended to miners as a protection, or as a restriction intended to limit their wage-earning power, there is not, it seems to us, the slightest reason why it should be applied to miners any more than to men engaged in the construction of railways, to lumbermen, carpenters or fishermen.

(14) The mines of the Slocan camp are all nearly high up in the mountains. The men employed cannot live in town, or establish homes, within reach. The time between shifts can only be spent in the bunk houses, where the means of recreation or enjoyment are limited.

No Sundays are kept at the mines, because the men are unwilling to have an idle day, nor would they be willing to submit at all to the shortening of the day, except for the notion that the owners can be compelled to pay as much for an eight as for a ten hour day.

(15) Your petitioners submit that whereas the miners were at first indifferent or opposed to the measure, they have since by the agitation and by the persistent and strenuous efforts of the Western Federation of Miners, and to no small extent by coercion, gathered into unions, which unions are now demanding the retention or enforcement of the law, with at the same time the same rate of wages that formerly obtained for the ten-hour day. We submit that the Western Federation of Miners is an alien corporation, having its headquarters and the great bulk of its membership in a foreign country, and that its avowed and loudly-declared purpose is to compel all mine owners and managers everywhere to submit unconditionally to its dictation, to work their mines subject to the inspection of their agents, and to dismiss from their employ all men not members of the organization.

We desire to call your attention to the history of this society, as, according to common report, it has been exemplified in portions of the neighboring state of Idaho, where its membership has committed deeds of violence and crime, culminating in the destruction of mills and mining works by dynamite, and the murder of unoffending men.

That the laws and authority of that state were in the Coeur d'Alene camps set at defiance, and those districts are now, and have been for the last nine months, under martial law, and garrisoned by United States troops, and are now, as a consequence, as we are informed, in the enjoyment of a period of peace and prosperity not know under the dictatorship of the unions here.

(16) Members of our board, familiar with the whole history of political discussion on the platform and through the press in this district for the past ten years, declare that they never saw nor heard a suggestion put forward by any one that such a change should be made. We have, moreover, been informed that this amendment was brought before the mining committee of your honorable House during the session of 1899, and that that committee, composed presumably of members of the House best acquainted with the mining industry, and best qualified to judge of the expediency of proposed amendments, refused to report in favor of it.

(17) The rate of wages offered by the mines of the Slocan is the same as paid in the neighboring camps of Nelson and Rossland (and for some classes of work, a higher rate), and is a rate that would be accepted by men in the province, by men from Eastern Canada, from the United States and from Great Britain. And it is only by the persistent efforts of the unions, exerted in the form of persuasion, warning, threats and intimidation, that such men have been kept out of the mines.

(18) The advertisements of the unions, warning men to keep out of and away from the Slocan camps, have been circulated everywhere, some of those circulated in Eastern Canada containing the statement that it is contrary to the laws of British Columbia for men to come into the province under a contract to perform labor. The agents of the union are on guard at every depot and steamboat landing, watch every boat and train, laboring men travelling anywhere in the district are watched and followed, and compelled to account for their movements. If intending to go to work in any mine, which is not working in conformity with the demands of the unions, the men are beset with persuasion, and warning and itimidation, and where these are not successful, they are assailed with foul abuse, and with thinly-disguised threats of vengeance. And it has only been, we believe, for lack of provocation and lack of opportunity that so far actual conflict and violence have not occurred.

(19) The threat has been plainly made and published in the local papers of the district, that business or professional men showing lack of sympathy with the unions will be marked for their displeasure. And prominent merchants have been waited upon by officers of the unions, and told that they were suspected of advising men to work in the mines, and that if this was proved against them, the Miners' Union could and would ruin them.

(20) This system of espionage and terrorism is new to our experience as Canadians and business men, and it has reached a point in this district where it is intolerable. We consider that all combinations either to force the rate of wages up or down, are against public policy, and should be to the greatest possible extent discouraged by law. But we hold that interference with the individual rights of men (who are not discriminated against by special Dominion or Provincial legislation) to seek employment where they please, and on such terms as they choose to accept, is an outrage that cannot be allowed in this country, and if persisted in, must inevitably lead to such deplorable results as have occurred in the Coeur d'Alene camps.

(21) The Kaslo Board of Trade, about two months since, made an effort to bring about a settlement of the difficulty, and succeeded in getting together representatives of the owners and of the men in amicable conference. The result of this effort is now public property. At that meeting it was stated in the presence of the delegates that there was absolutely nothing in dispute except the rate of wages.

The mine owners made an offer to give the rate of wages demanded by the men, for all classes of work except drilling, for which they would divide the difference of 50 cents per day that existed between them.

This offer of the mine owners we consider to have been liberal, and it was generally so considered by all disinterested people; and according to a published report, that we have not seen contradicted, at a meeting of miners, called to consider this proposition, the vote stood 137 to 17 in favor of acceptance. Notwithstanding this vote, however, the proposition was not accepted by the unions, but a counter proposition was made, viz., that they would accept the rate of $3.25 only for drillers in stopes, all other drillers to get the full rate of $3.50 per day; that representatives of the miners' unions should be allowed to inspect the mines once a month; that mine owners should employ men only on the scale of competency given by the men of the unions; and that the agreement should be terminable upon thirty days' notice, conditions which were inserted contrary to the explicit understanding had at the joint meeting, and that there was nothing except the rate of wages in dispute.

(22) We believe that a change in the law in the direction that we have suggested, which would simply be putting the eight-hour day on the same footing as the ten-hour day has hitherto been upon, would be satisfactory to the mine owners, and to many of the miners, we believe to the great majority of the miners who are citizens of this country, that it would lead to an immediate settlement of the difficulty, and to resumption of the work with the full rate of the wages formerly paid.

(23) We believe that in densely populated countries, where avenues for the employment of labor are few, the policy of lessening the hours of labor, with a view to giving employment to a larger number of people, may be justifiable. But in this province with its paucity of population and its plethora of natural wealth awaiting development, the very opposite is true; and that men of industry and thrift should not be debarred from the privilege of supplementing their ordinary earnings by the proceeds of overtime work.

(24) At the same time we believe that the establishment of eight hours as a day's work (which standard would be operative in all cases where a greater length of day was not specifically con-

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