

HOUSE PROCEEDS WITH ESTIMATES

Many Votes Passed in Committee on Supply—Few Exceptions Taken

LIBERALS BLOCK BUSINESS Attorney-General Announced Much Constitutional Litigation

(From Thursday's Daily) The provincial legislature occupied the greater part of yesterday afternoon and all evening with the consideration of the estimates in committee on supply.

In all some 150 votes were passed and when the house adjourned at 12:30 a. m. this morning much more progress would have been recorded if it had not been for the action of the Liberal opposition.

It all arose over the attempt of the member for Greenwood to tell his constituents across the bridge constructed by the Kettle river. He maintained that the bridge should have been built in the district of Greenwood, whereas it fell within the confines of Similkameen.

Mr. Naden endeavored to enlighten the house upon the inquiry of this matter came up in connection with the vote for Greenwood. A. E. McPhillips promptly took a point of order that the member was not speaking to the question and was confirmed in his exception by the chairman, Price Ellison.

This brought to the aid of the member for Greenwood John Oliver. The member for Delta proved to his own satisfaction that the matter could be proved at the present juncture. Price Ellison stuck to his guns and then the process of killing time began.

Finally the member for Greenwood appealed to the speaker. After more argument the latter confirmed the ruling of the chairman.

One hour and twenty minutes were consumed in this manner and the interesting information was elicited from J. H. Hawthornthwaite that on the 21st votes passed, the member for Delta had spoken 218 times. Mr. Oliver retorted that he was not half tired yet.

Prior to the reading of the budget, Stuart Henderson in the afternoon delivered a lengthy address. He advocated a different investment of the funds to the credit of the sinking fund and made a number of other suggestions. His speech bristled with figures.

Parker Williams was heard also with regard to the particular needs of Newcastle district. The increase to ministers and premier were passed with scarcely a question. Not a word with regard to the increased salaries of members was uttered and the objections taken to other votes were of a trivial nature.

The real background was reached when the voters to road bridges and wharves were reached. It was when half through this that the house adjourned.

vince on account of this railway, but which could not now be recovered. By reason of the act in question, this enterprise would cost the province \$750,000. As matters stood when this railway came into the market the C. P. R. company must be the only bidder, and on the shoulders of the government must be placed the responsibility for the development of the lower portion of that section of the Okanagan country.

Having discussed the affairs of the B. C. Southern and Columbia & Western railways in connection with their land grants, he held that it was to the advantage of the province that the law of \$700,000 had it not been for the way of taxation from the C. P. R. company.

This was only a fair and reasonable estimate in the circumstances. That the company was absolutely liable for the amount under the statute, and it was only owing to the laxity and supineness of the government that had prevented the revenue being increased by that amount.

Would Keep Money Here. The inscribed stock of the province now almost reached the figure of ten million dollars, which was to be extinguished through the payment of ten per cent. annually—3 per cent. for interest and 1 per cent. for sinking fund.

The member for Delta pointed out that the amount of the fiscal year of 1907 was \$972,034 had been paid on this account, and at the end of this fiscal year this payment would amount to \$1,300,000. And in the circumstances he suggested that the province should send this 4 per cent. to the country every year to keep the \$400,000 in question here and invest it in a high rate of interest in the province.

It was in question here and invest it in a high rate of interest in the province and if that sum was invested here that the figure of the sum of \$2,901,000 would be reached in five years—a much larger amount than would be realized if the practice of sending this money over to the old country were continued. In fact, the price would be advanced to the extent of \$200,000 by this change in the manner of doing this business, and if the funds in question were sent here at 5 per cent. it would amount to six millions. In addition, brokerage and commissions that \$1 a cent interest would amount to 4 per cent reach at the end of the year the sum of \$68,351,376.02 at 4 1/2 per cent, and \$84,51 at 5 per cent. He trusted that the member for Delta, finance minister would take into consideration his plan for saving the sum of six millions to the province.

Parker Williams (Newcastle) stated that he knew the problems with which his constituents had to contend better than did the government agent at Nanaimo. Previous to 1903 the vote for Newcastle generally amounted to between \$15,000 and \$20,000. In 1903 there was an election coming on and the vote was \$18,000. Immediately following the election the money for road work was called in and the expenditure for that year was but a small proportion of the confidence. In some of the other constituencies, Dewdney, notably, over twice the amount authorized was expended.

The government was not above spending the public moneys for private purposes. Of late years for private roads, the increase in the disbursement was grossly in excess of the roads. This was grossly in excess of the roads. This was grossly in excess of the roads. This was grossly in excess of the roads.

The foreman knew more about politics than roads. He contrasted this government with the government of Montreal, a landowner's government to direct the work. What was the reason for the discrimination?

The state of the road gang were more intent upon getting a good automobile road for the summer months than in fixing it against the rainy season. Cobble stones were dug out of the holes filled in with shale. These became mud when the rain fell.

Mr. Williams dilated at some length upon the troubles of Mr. Pearson, a grocer of Ladysmith who became stuck in one of the sloughs of the highway. He eulogized the action of two ladies, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Hanes, who had taken it upon themselves to repair a section of the road and had corduroyed one bog hole with fence rails. He asked if the chief commissioner intended paying them for their labor.

The government agent at Nanaimo had recommended a vote of \$3,500 for the road. He himself thought that \$2,000 would be sufficient. The government had cut the figure down to \$7,000.

The member for Newcastle stated that he was a member of the Conservative party, but he was not a member of the Conservative party in the house who gave their assent to measures of which they did not really approve and saved their high character by obtaining larger votes for expenditures in their constituencies. This was graft, the utilization of public funds for private purposes.

house under its very peculiar triangular leadership was more intent upon what was required by the C. P. R. government for the coming elections than of doing its duty in the house. (Laughter.)

Judget Adopted. At the conclusion of Parker Williams' remarks, the budget was formally adopted.

Committee of Supply. The house went into committee on supply with Price Ellison (Okanagan) in the chair. The first item questioned was the allowance for the premier's office. It was explained that the vote provided for a yearly increase of \$1000 to the premier's salary, and it was pointed out that the amount under the statute, and it was only owing to the laxity and supineness of the government that had prevented the revenue being increased by that amount.

Stuart Henderson (Yale) drew the attention of the premier to the question of mining licenses. He thought it would be well to consider the matter in some other way than by considering some method by which mining licenses good for life or for a term of years be given.

The proposition is a novel one and one which had never been considered. I question whether it would be an improvement on the existing laws of the province, which have the highest authorities of the United States as the best in America. In connection with the vote for the land department, Mr. R. G. Tatlow stated that the department had involved the appointment of three additional clerks for the lands department.

The increase in the salary of the deputy attorney general was the subject of a question on the part of J. H. Hawthornthwaite. The increase, \$50 a month, was a matter of which the member for Delta also asked if it was the intention of the attorney general to devote his full time to the department which had increased salary which had been voted.

Much Litigation. Hon. Mr. Bowser replied that when he assumed office he had no intention of entirely relinquishing his ordinary practice, and he did not think that any member would expect him to do so. He believed that the deputy attorney-general's services were worth the increase. There was a great increase in the amount of litigation entailing additional work upon the deputy and the department generally. Constitutional questions of which the government agent at Nanaimo would have to be taken to the privy council.

All knew how very carefully the hon. member looked after the taxes, and consequently he was not at all surprised that among the very first business which was placed before the house was a bill to amend the act relating to the taxation of the B. C. Southern, the Columbian & Western and the Wellington Collieries. But these matters were not definitely brought to the attention of the house until the conclusion was reached that they were of them were taxable, these matters were brought to the attention of the assessment roll in the present stage of development, to set up an office at any particular point in the country in a manner that the public might look upon it as a wise course to pursue for some time. It so happens that when the government opens an office in any particular place, it is granted that a townsite and a local center of administration has been fixed at that particular place, and in consequence of this, the public is benefited. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Yorston urged the appointment of a clerk at Quesnel Forks. Hon. Mr. McBride, in a great measure, in reply to the hon. member, I can promise my hon. friend that I can demonstrate that the public will be better served in these matters by the placing of a clerk at Quesnel Forks than by the making of arrangements to that end which will be made in due course.

Mr. Yorston: The real difficulty will be to get a suitable man in this section. Hon. Mr. McBride: I will be very pleased to take the matter up with my hon. friend at the very earliest convenient opportunity. Statistical Bureau. On the vote of \$110 per month for the clerk in the Statistical Bureau, Mr. Hayward (Cowichan) said that this gentleman occupied a rather anomalous position. The work of this department having increased very much the government had added to the staff a clerk who eventually was assigned to a great deal of extra work, and he was not paid for the house, and in particular to the ministry, that this gentleman's literary work was extremely good, being of the highest quality. He had been paid for such service \$150 a month by the C. P. R. company.

He now had practically charge of the department, and instead of \$110, he should receive \$1,000 a month. The government's literary work, plates and all, had been placed in the Busy Man's magazine. Objects to Vote. G. R. Naden, Greenwood, objected to vote No. 68, \$300 in aid of a resident physician in the South Okanagan, and on the ground that this section of the country was well settled, moved that the vote be struck out.

Hon. Mr. McBride: From my personal knowledge of the district this gentleman is called upon to do a very large amount of work, and he receives not one cent in the way of remuneration. (Hear, hear.) The country is very sparsely settled and the gentleman is called upon to do a very large amount of work, and he receives not one cent in the way of remuneration. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. Bowser: It is also a question of constitutional practice. In addition there was the question of the water rights in the Okanagan valley, and there would be a consequent appeal to the privy council. Hon. Mr. Bowser: It is also a question of constitutional practice. In addition there was the question of the water rights in the Okanagan valley, and there would be a consequent appeal to the privy council.

preliminary preparation of the cases would be through. Land Grant Taxation. Mr. Oliver asked if the attorney-general was going to take the question of the taxation of the Columbia & Western Railway to the privy council or the question of the taxation of the property of the Wellington Colliery Company.

Hon. Mr. Bowser: The hon. gentleman entirely misunderstands me. In no case a tentative decision has been reached, and a general or final decision in the other, is still under the consideration of the department. We have a number of corporations in the assessment roll. The case of the B. C. Southern was now under consideration.

Mr. Oliver pleaded for a larger increase for the young lady in the office condition, and a librarian. He was informed that this was a matter which the Civil Service act which would be enacted this session. Quesnel Forks. Under the head of civil government salaries, Mr. Oliver asked for the agencies, Barkerville district, Cariboo and Vernon. Mr. Oliver asked for the agencies, Barkerville district, Cariboo and Vernon.

Hon. Mr. McBride: For some years there has been a regular agency at this place, but as of late years the business transacted has fallen off very considerably, and I can tell the hon. gentleman that the government has concluded to establish a regular agency at this place, but as of late years the business transacted has fallen off very considerably, and I can tell the hon. gentleman that the government has concluded to establish a regular agency at this place.

Hon. Dr. Young: The sum of \$25,000 is provided for the hospital at Vernon, but \$5,000 of this amount is to go to the hospital at Kelowna, which is now being built and which will cost between \$12,000 and \$15,000. Mr. Henderson: If a portion of the vote goes to Kelowna why does this appear to the credit of Vernon?

Hon. Dr. Young: Simply because it is practically a branch of the Vernon hospital. The latter will deal with surgical cases, etc., while the former will be a cottage hospital, which will be largely used for the accommodation of convalescents. Hon. Mr. McBride: There are places in the interior with twice Vernon's population, and yet they get no assistance.

Hon. Dr. Young: I can tell the hon. gentleman that if the citizens of Nelson will come forward with \$25,000 for the establishment of such an institution, I will provide the best medical treatment from this government. (Applause.) Some discussion followed, in the course of which the advantageous position of Vernon in the matter of health conditions came in for high praise.

Hon. Dr. Young: My knowledge of hospital conditions in British Columbia is of an entirely different character, for I know medical men of the interior who are perfectly competent to take charge of any case of accident which may occur, and some of them are now upon the floor of this house. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Macdonald: I am not reflecting upon the medical men of this province, who after all, unless they have proper appliances or hospital treatment, are quite unable wherever they may be to cope adequately with such conditions, and particularly with injuries to the eyes. Hon. Dr. Young: That does not affect my statement one bit, for not one man in 100 devotes himself to the treatment of eye cases, and it does not at all follow that because in a large hospital a specialist may be found in every branch of the profession as in Ontario and in Quebec that in respect to any other accident than accidents to the eyes, a medical man here are not quite able to furnish the treatment which may be required. (Applause.)

Mr. Macdonald: At least one eye specialist should be kept for the treatment of such cases. The vote was carried. For the Sanitarium. On vote No. 32, grant to tubercular sanitarium, \$10,000. Mr. Macdonald favored large and substantial contributions for this end. Mr. Williams: Let this vote be placed on the same basis as the votes which are destined for Richmond. (Laughter.) The vote was carried.

Administration of Justice. When the vote for the administration of justice other than salaries was reached, John Oliver took exception to the vote of \$4,000 for sheriff's allowances being put through until the house was given more information as to their revenue from other sources. The member for Nanaimo also had a protest. He thought the amount, \$383,000, was expended upon education, and that the total expenditure would cut down. It largely went to persons whose only business seemed to be to flout this legislature and to dress themselves up in "fancy clothes."

Education. In reply to John Oliver, when the votes to education were reached, Hon. Dr. Young stated that the \$4,000 for the education of the deaf, dumb and blind was expended in travelling allowances for the proportion of the vote to their revenue from other sources. The member for Nanaimo also had a protest. He thought the amount, \$383,000, was expended upon education, and that the total expenditure would cut down. It largely went to persons whose only business seemed to be to flout this legislature and to dress themselves up in "fancy clothes."

Thieves at Steveston. Vancouver, Feb. 26.—A gang of thieves has been operating in the vicinity of Steveston, and the police are working hard to run them to earth. Houses have been pillaged right and left, and the victims of good stolen property are numerous. One man has already been arrested, and will come up for hearing on Saturday. His name is Robert Brown, and he is alleged to have been passing property to Benjamin Franklin. He is charged with burglary, and other arrests are to follow.

boats had been doing very excellent work in the straits it had not yet reached the East coast. Hon. Dr. Young replied that so soon as a much larger steamer was provided, which was in contemplation—it was the intention to go out into rougher waters. Hospital Grants. On vote No. 15, \$15,000, in aid of the Royal Jubilee hospital of this city, in answer to Dr. G. A. B. Hall (Nelson) and Parker Williams (Newcastle), Hon. Dr. Young said the Royal Jubilee hospital is getting the same amount which is granted to the hospital in the other two cities, Vancouver and New Westminster. Beyond all doubt this hospital is doing magnificent work here, but at the same time we must remember that while the hospitals in the coast cities are situated in the richest parts of the province, the majority of the hospitals in this country are for the most part treating indigent cases and get no pay for these services. (Hear, hear.) And while in Victoria, in Vancouver and in the larger institutions, a class of patients which are well able to pay for hospital work are being treated, this is not the case in the other parts of this province, and I think that the government has, as it certainly should do, generously indicated with the institutions which I have named. (Hear, hear.)

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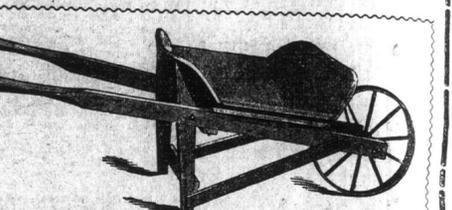
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should be established in West and Southern Kootenay, and at the Bountiful, for in these sections accidents of a very serious character are of frequent occurrence. At present such cases have to be sent either to other parts or out of the province for treatment.

Vote for Greenwood. The vote for Greenwood was the stumbling block. Mr. Naden held that \$2,000 for this as compared with \$28,000 for Similkameen was grossly unfair. He then brought up the question of the bridge across the Kettle river, which, he said, should have been built long ago. The member for Similkameen after the latter had been decided upon by the government engineer had had it changed to its present position in his constituency. This was not right.

Mr. Shatford stated that Similkameen was twenty times as large as Greenwood, yet their appropriation was only five times as large. It was the former had begun to receive fair treatment. It had not been given until the railway or dyking subsidies of Delta and other places had been cut off. Mr. Naden returned to the question of the bridge. He had asked for a return of all the correspondence in the matter, and he had been brought down by the clerk to produce this.

Mr. McPhillips took a point of order that the member for Similkameen already built had nothing to do with the money to be voted for roads. Around the bridge question a wordy battle was engendered. John Oliver was elected to the chair, and he was joined by other Liberals joined in it and finally upon the chairman giving his decision Mr. Naden appealed to the speaker. The speaker sustained the chair. But nearly an hour and a half had passed in the meantime been consumed.

Mr. Williams Protests. When the vote for Newcastle came up for consideration, Mr. Williams complained that the constitutionality of the vote was being punished because it had elected a Socialist. He asked in what manner it could get redress. Hon. Richard Macdonald in answer disclaimed the charge that the government was influenced by political considerations in drafting its estimates. It was guided solely by the needs of the district and the needs of money in sight. The member for Newcastle would always find the chief commissioner and the members of the board of directors ready and willing to lend a willing ear to anything he had to put forward.

Mr. Williams asked what evidence he would have to produce that the vote was influenced by political considerations. It was all very well to be told to come and see the government when he wanted more. Now was the time to settle the vote, and he would be glad to see the member for Newcastle in the chair. He thought it was not sufficient, but that Newcastle was better off than many other districts.

On the Liberal members showing a disposition to resign, Mr. Macdonald, on the assurance of the chief commissioner, would not go unchallenged, the house adjourned at 12:35 a. m. Grand Water Record. New Westminster, Feb. 26.—Water Commissioner C. C. Fisher, has granted a record for one hundred inches of water for power purposes to Messrs. Pitt Lake. The water will be used at the firm's stone quarries on Pitt river.

New Westminster, Feb. 26.—The fact that attempts are being made by Japanese and Chinese to establish a new restricted district in the city on Eleventh street between Royal and Anderson streets, has been brought to light and has caused considerable excitement among the citizens generally, and among property owners in that vicinity in particular. Mr. Macdonald, should be placed in the interior. (Applause from members from interior.)

Hawthornthwaite asked if \$4,000 worth of furniture every year when the votes for Government House were reached, the member that the salary of the gardener at that institution be increased by \$15 a month. His motion was ruled out of order. H. C. Brewster made yet another protest when the votes for roads, bridges and wharves were reached. The amount for Alberni was \$10,450, was altogether too small. The item passed. J. A. Macdonald contrasted the money expended in the two neighbor-

RACES BACK AVOID

With Pumps Br Clara Steams Six Feet of

IS THE VICTIM

Alaska-Bound Ste in Storm Off Coast of

(From Thursday's Daily)

The steamer Santa Clara, bound for Seattle, was forced to run to the coast of Alaska, and was blown off its course by a leading wind. The pumps were not working, and the water was gradually increasing. The vessel was forced to anchor in the storm off the coast of Alaska.

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CAMOSUN BACK PRINCE R

Union Company's Steam Run Inaugurating Service. The steamer Camosun, a weekly schedule which was guaranteed by the company, was to leave for Seattle today from the trunk line.

The steamer Camosun, a weekly schedule which was guaranteed by the company, was to leave for Seattle today from the trunk line. The company's new steamer was to be a fair complement of passenger accommodation.

From Prince Rupert the Camosun brought passengers, among them, a harbor engineer at Seattle, King and the company; D. H. Day, the B. C. Tie & Timber of the subsidiary company; and W. B. Slevin, of the trunk line. The fair complement of passenger accommodation was to be a fair complement of passenger accommodation.

BRINGS MILLION OF FIRE

Ninghow Has Big Noise-Makers for Holidays. (From Thursday's Daily) The steamer Ninghow, discharging general cargo, was to leave for Seattle today from the trunk line.

The steamer Ninghow, discharging general cargo, was to leave for Seattle today from the trunk line. The company's new steamer was to be a fair complement of passenger accommodation.