Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, MAY 4TH, 1888.

THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Proceedings of the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament.

FIFTY-FOURTH DAY.

THURSDAY, 27th April.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock. Prayers were offered by the Rev. Dr. Reid.

ADDRESS TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented the report of the select committee appointed to draft an address to His Excellency Governor-General Lansdowne, as follows:

To His Excellency the Most Noble HENRY CHARLES KEITH PETTY-FITZMAURICE, *Marquis of Lansdowne, in the County of Somerset, Earl of Wycombe, of Chipping Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, Viscount Clan and Clanstone, in the County of Wilts, and Lord Wycombe, Baron of Chipping Wycombe, in the County of Bucks, in the Peerage of Great Britain; Earl of Kerry and Earl of Shelburne, Viscount Clanmaurice and Fitzmaurice, Baron of Kerry, Lixnaw and Dunkerron, in the Peerage of Ireland; Governor-General of Canada, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the members of the legislative assembly of the Province of British Columbia, desire to avail ourselves of the occasion of your retirement from the high and important position you have filled with so much acceptance, to express to Your Excellency our deep sense and admiration of the ability and statesman-like qualities which have distinguished your administration of the affairs of the Dominion, and at the same time to assure Your Excellency of our devotion and loyal attachment to the person and government of our Gracious Sovereign.

We consider that we should be wanting in duty if we failed to assure Your Excellency that the interest you have evinced in the material progress of this the western province of Canada is highly appreciated; and we venture to express the opinion that the knowledge which Your Excellency must have acquired of the resources of Canada and the character of the people from your visit to British Columbia *via* the Canadian Pacific railway, must have been both pleasurable and instructive; and we shall always remember Your Excellency as the first Governor-General of Canada who in visiting this province was enabled to travel by rail through British territory solely.

We pray that the Supreme Ruler of nations may vouchsafe to bestow upon Your Excellency and the Marchioness of Lansdowne His choicest blessings, and that you may be long spared to take a prominent part in the affairs of that mighty Empire to which it is our pride to belong, and to which Your Excellency has already rendered such important service.

Report received and adopted, and the address ordered to be engrossed, Mr. Speaker to sign the same, and forward it to the Secretary of State at Ottawa.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The resolutions passed in committee of supply were read and adopted.

WAYS AND MEANS.

House went into committee of ways and means, Mr. Higgins in the chair.

In committee it was resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty, the following sums be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of the province of British Columbia: $12,072.79 for the financial year ending 30th June, 1887; $113,405.55 for the financial year ending 30th June, 1888; $793,436.05 for the financial year ending 30th June, 1889; $8,002.50 to be brought to account as per schedule B. Total, $926,916.89.

The resolution was reported to the house and adopted.

Hon. Mr. Turner presented a bill for the purpose of granting certain sums of money for the public service.

House went into committee, Mr. Higgins in the chair.

Bill was reported to the house, adopted and read a first and second time.

House went into committee and reported the bill complete to the house.

On consideration of the report,

Mr. Grant moved the following additional section: "It shall not be lawful for any person to obtain any sum of money on the credit of the government of British Columbia, either by issue of debentures, or as a temporary loan, or by an overdraft at a bank without having first obtained therefor the sanction of the legislative assembly."

The hon mover said that it was desirable in the interests of the province that this section should be added, for it would prevent any large expenditure of public monies further than those provided by the legislature.

Mr. Semlin seconded.

Hon. Mr. Robson said if he could comprehend the clause he might be able to speak intelligently on the matter. It might be on account of his obtuseness. It had never before been attempted to tack such a clause on the supply bill. It was probably the last dying groan of her Majesty's loyal opposition (laughter). He could not see the reasonableness of the proposition. Former governments had contracted much larger overdrafts, in proportion, than any which had been made by the present government. The government of which the hon. leader of the opposition was a member had frequently contracted overdrafts. The clause was simply a reflection on all previous governments, as it tended to show that the house had not confidence in the government. The confidence reposed in the government heretofore had never been betrayed in the exercise of this power. He certainly could regard it in no other light than that of a resolution of censure, and thought there was no necessity for the clause.

Mr. Beaven considered the clause as containing no reflection upon the government, and the clause, in his opinion, was a most proper one. As the finance minister had claimed there was no necessity for an overdraft for the next two years, he thought this was a very opportune time to introduce it into the supply bill.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir thought the resolution an extremely silly one, for it sought to prevent everybody else but the government of British Columbia from contracting an overdraft at the bank. He would suggest to the hon. member for Cassiar to withdraw the resolution. It was a reflection on the latter's intelligence.

Hon. Mr. Turner was very much of the same opinion as the hon. president of the council. The clause might read, "It shall not be lawful for Willis Bond to obtain a sum of money on the credit of the government" (laughter.) He was of opinion that the clause had been prepared at an earlier stage of the session, but owing to the satisfactory state of the finances of the country the opposition had held it back and sought at this last and most inopportune moment to incorporate it into the supply bill. They had prophesied through their press and in this house that at the end of the present fiscal year there would be nothing left of the million loan, and were bitterly disappointed because it was shown that there was $450,000 at the credit of the province in the Bank of British Columbia. After referring to the businesslike and economical manner in which the affairs of the country had been conducted, he showed what a hampered position a government would occupy if they were not allowed to contract an overdraft. They might have considerable outstanding revenue, but by this clause they would at times be prevented from paying bills due for months, and workmen would be thus delayed in securing wages due them. The proposition was a most unreasonable one and would not be accepted by any ordinary business man.

On the question being put it was lost on a division of 5 to 14.

The supply bill carried.

SUMAS DYKING ACT.

On the third reading of the Sumas Dyking bill,

Hon. Mr. Vernon drew attention to the fact that no provision had been made to pay any expenses in connection with securing reports necessary on the completion of the dyke. It was to be completed to the satisfaction of the chief commissioner, but so far as that was now concerned it was a dead letter.

Hon. Mr. Davie was surprised that his hon. friend, if he really believed there was something in what he now said, had not taken exception at a previous stage. It was rather late in the day to endeavor to kill the bill. But there was ample provision in the bill to meet all the objection which had been raised. So far as he was concerned, although the promoters had promised to complete the dyke by the end of this year, he would be willing to give them another year, if necessary.

Mr. Beaven thought that the statement of the chief commissioner showed how dangerous it was to interfere with matters of this kind. They should leave the bill over for another year. The hon. attorney-general came on the floor of this house and pleaded clients' causes.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to again contradict the statement. I am not pleading clients' causes. The Sumas settlers have not been clients of mine since 1883.

Mr. Beaven again said that the house should leave the matter over for another year.

On a division being taken on the third reading, it was carried by a vote of 8 to 11, and the bill passed.

MESSAGES FROM HIS HONOR.

Mr. Speaker read two messages from his honor, one consenting to the increase of the sum in the quartz bill from thirty-five thousand to sixty-four thousand dollars; the other consenting to the amendment made in the Kootenay bill.

QUARTZ BILL.

House went into committee on the quartz bill, Mr. Grant in the chair, and reported the increase in amount to the house.

Report received; the bill read a third time and passed.

KOOTENAY BILL.

House went into committee on the Kootenay bill amendment.

The amendment was reported to the house, adopted, and the bill read a third time and passed.

KOOTENAY LAND GRANT.

The bill granting 200,000 acres to the Kootenay and Columbia River Railway company was read a third time and passed.

MINING AND INDIAN RESERVES.

Mr. McLeese moved the adoption of this bill.

Hon. Mr. Davie said the bill was sure to be disallowed at Ottawa. The free miner had already the right, according to his theory, of mining on these reserves. The passing of this measure was acknowledging that free miners had not the right, and this house could not, by legislating, give it to them. If they had no right, the bill was useless. If they had a right, the bill was unnecessary.

Mr. McLeese said his object was simply to demonstrate the right of miners to enter on Indian reserves for mining purposes. He did not wish to withdraw the bill, nor did he want it killed.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he recognized the good principle of the bill, but thought the passing of it would not attain what was sought. It would simply cast a doubt upon the miner's right.

After considerable discussion on the matter, the attorney-general said that as the right existed before confederation he thought that the free miner still had the privilege.

Mr. McLeese said that the Dominion had questioned it. This bill would give the free miner power to enter upon the lands, and if the Dominion still objected it would be a matter of issue between the two governments.

After further remark, Mr. McLeese said that as there was no doubt the bill would be voted down, he would withdraw it. He trusted now the government had had their attention called to it, they would take energetic steps to settle any dispute (hear, hear).

The order for the third reading was discharged.

GRANVILLE SQUATTERS.

Hon. T. Davie, in moving the second reading of this measure, said that the bill had been agreed upon between the company and the government and this fact was recited in the preamble. The hon. gentleman reviewed the events leading up to this measure; that Mr. Van Horne had visited the province in August, 1884, when negotiations were opened for extending the line to Coal Harbor and English Bay, in consideration of which undertaking the government had agreed to grant the company 6,000 acres of land, which included the unoccupied part of the town plot of Granville; that prior to Mr. Van Horne's visit the land was reserved, but several persons had squatted on lots in Granville, and in carrying out the bargain the company had agreed to grant a lot to each squatter who had *bona fide* located on any lot previous to Mr. Van Horne's visit and who had made substantial improvements on his location; that in carrying out this intention, Mr. Smithe, the late chief commissioner of lands and works, had written to Mr. Beatty, who was acting on behalf of the company, asking permission to state to all persons who had located before Mr. Van Horne's visit and had improved their lots that the company would sell his location to each settler at $200. Mr. Smithe's letter said that the number was believed not to exceed a dozen. An answer had been returned by Mr. Beatty, agreeing to the proposal, though not in the same terms as Mr. Smithe's letter. The company had settled with thirteen claimants, but in all there were twenty-eight, and some of the unsettled ones had taken their cases into court, but had been defeated on the ground that the letters between Mr. Smithe and Mr. Beatty did not constitute an agreement. The cases were tried before the Chief Justice, and in one case a jury. Although deciding against the plaintiffs in their suits the jury in the one case and the Chief Justice in the other had held that they came fully within the terms of Mr. Smithe's letter as having located in a *bona fide* manner and having made substantial improvements. These suits had been appealed and were still pending. The company was anxious to have the cases settled, and although disputing that the claimants were entitled to the lots, were willing to refer all the claims to arbitration. This was a favorable plan for the claimants also, for it opened the door which so far had been shut against them by the decision of the court.

The select committee had reported that there were 28 claimants for lots under the arrangement between Mr. Smythe and Mr. Beatty, and 13 having been settled with left 15 yet undisposed of and disputed by the company. Of these the company had signified their willingness to allow 6, and the bill provided that forthwith on the passage of the act the company should give their lots to the 6, whose claims they were now willing to admit, and that the remaining 9 only should be referred to arbitration.

Regarding the arbitrators, if the government and the company could agree, one sole arbitrator would be appointed, but if a sole arbitrator could not be agreed upon, then the government and the company were to appoint an arbitrator each and Chancellor Boyd of Ontario, who has been selected as arbitrator between the Dominion and the C. P. R. and who will be here in a short time to conduct the Dominion arbitration, or such person as he may name, will be appointed third arbitrator. In default of the appointment of arbitrators any judge of the supreme court of British Columbia would have power to appoint them. It was considered, both by the company and the government, that as some of the judges had already adjudicated upon the claims in question and upon matters relating to the extension, it would be more acceptable that some one who had given no rulings in relation to the subject should be asked to decide. The costs of the arbitration would be borne equally between the company and the government, and all claims other than those referred to arbitration would be barred.

Mr. Beaven said that the whole matter should have been settled before the crown grant was issued to the trustees of the company. The letters which passed between the then chief commissioner and Mr. Beatty was no agreement at all.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir would simply remind the hon. leader of the opposition that the government were aware that the letters existed; the chief commissioner did not exist. The government was endeavoring to make a reasonable settlement and there was no use in crying over spilt milk.

Mr. Beaven in the chief commissioner's action, recognized the action of the government of which he was a member. Instead of allowing the company to sell these lots to the squatters the government themselves should have undertook the adjustment of all claims to lots in the old Granville townsite. He at first had thought the C. P. R. had been doing a wrong, but after perusing the documents he had a very different impression. The chief commissioner's letter to Mr. Beatty said that so far as his information went, there would not be more than a dozen lots claimed. They had recognized thirteen, and were willing to recognize six more. This was generous when there was but a dozen in the first place.

Hon. Mr. Robson—The hon. gentleman is altogether wrong in his interpretation of the wording of the letter. It is stated so far as the information went. No decided statement was made as to number.

Mr. Beaven did not think so. Looking at the matter as between man and man, why should not the principle, if it is good, act in the fifteen cases.

Hon. Mr. Robson—Why arbitrate on points already conceded?

Mr. Beaven said that he thought arbitration should be had on all cases.

Hon Mr. Robson—Well, that's the runmest thing I ever heard. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Beaven thought a better selection than Chancellor Boyd could not have been made. The clause referring to the decision of the arbitrators did not fully meet the requirements.

Hon. Mr. Davie—There are three arbitrators. One may find against the claim, the other two in favor of it. That settles it. They could not do otherwise. There must be three on one side.

Mr. Beaven said that one might find in favor, another might take a different view as to what constituted substantial improvements, while the third would be against.

Mr. Higgins wanted more information. It seemed to him that the bill ignored or set aside the report of the committee on the Granville claims. That committee held a long inquiry and made an exhaustive report—two reports, in fact, which reached the same conclusion by a different route. These reports found that certain persons had *bona fide* located on lots at Granville prior to Mr. Van Horne's first visit. This bill says that the same persons mentioned in the reports "claimed to be entitled" to the several lots. The committee had found that they are entitled and should have their lots. Again the bill seemed to require that those persons should have "personally located." The committee, in opposition to Mr. Hamilton's opinion, found that under the land laws of the province a person might be a *bona fide* occupant or locatee of land by tenant or agent. Now if the bill swept away that finding where would the bulk of the claimants be? There was one consolation, the company had granted lots to several persons who had never resided at all on the lots they received. If the company was prepared to deal with all the claimants on that basis the duties of the arbitrators would be light indeed.

Hon. Mr. Davie said the two points raised by the former speaker had not been lost sight of. The present bill was an agreement between the government and the company, and if that was altered there would be no agreement. The second section, it would be seen, provided that the letters in question would be considered as an agreement between the company and the government, and would form the ground upon which the claims would be arbitrated. There was no mention in these of personal occupation. With regard to the second point, it was not for the government to decide finally in the matter. Otherwise what would be the use of the arbitration? The select committee's report would be no doubt placed before the arbitrators, but its finding could not determine the finding of the arbitration.

Mr. Semlin could not understand the bill. Who were the favored six? Did the government know who they were?

Hon. Mr. Davie—No; the government are not aware who they are.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir—The government don't accept the six only. They say that the fifteen have a right to be given their lots. What more can they do?

Mr. Semlin could not understand the bill, and did not know whether he would vote for it or not.

Mr. Grant did not think there should be a favored six selected. The government should protect the fifteen.

Hon. Messrs. Robson and Dunsmuir endeavored to convince the hon. gentlemen that the government did not accept the six. They insisted that the fifteen should be given their lots.

Mr. Grant thought that they were not doing so. He said that hon. gentlemen opposite were endeavoring to cast the blame for the loose transaction on the late premier.

Hon Mr. Robson said the implication was entirely wrong. No one on the government side had endeavored to do anything so cowardly. Rather than any such implication should be made he (Hon. Mr. Robson) would acknowledge that he was to blame for the whole transaction (hear, hear).

Mr. Grant said the government as a whole were remiss in not having arranged for the settlement of all these claims before the C. P. R. were given a grant. After considerable interruption the hon. gentleman concluded his remarks.

Hon Mr. Robson said that if the government were in the position to dictate to the company what course should be followed, he could understand the line of argument adopted by the hon. member for Cassiar. Unfortunately they were not in that position. They had been endeavoring to make the best possible agreement with the C. P. R. They had placed themselves in the shoes of the squatters and were fighting their battle; what more could they do? The C.P.R. had already consented to six of the claims and were willing that the remaining nine should be arbitrated upon. This was the best bargain that the government could make, and he was surprised at the position assumed by hon. gentlemen who opposed the measure.

Mr. Higgins asked if it was the intention of the bill to deal with those people who had *bona fide* made application to purchase lots?

Hon. Mr. Davie said that the letters which now formed the basis of agreement contained nothing in regard to *bona fide* applicants, and therefore it was without the power of the government to deal with their claims.

The second reading carried.

Mr. Bole presented the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into a claim of James Morrison, suggesting that the government pay the petitioner the sum of $——

Report received and adopted.

It being six o'clock, Mr. Speaker left the chair.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 8 o'clock.

SQUATTERS' CLAIMS.

House went into committee on the Granville Squatters' Claims bill, Mr. Grant in the chair.

Committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments.

Report received and adopted; bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. Grant asked if the government would soon be in a position to state which claims were allowed?

Hon. Mr. Davie said the information would probably be furnished about Monday, if the house prorogued to-morrow.

THE CARIBOO MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. Allen moved that in the opinion of this house the public interest would be best served by calling for tenders before letting the contract for the conveyance of mails between Ashcroft and Cariboo.

Mr. Cowan explained that tenders had been called for, at least as far as Cariboo district was concerned.

Mr. Allen said he was not aware of the fact and would withdraw his motion.

SAMUEL GREER'S CLAIM.

Mr. Allen moved that the report of the select committee appointed to enquire into the claim of Samuel Greer to certain lands at English Bay be adopted. Seconded by Mr. John.

Mr. Beaven wanted to know what the government intended to do in this matter.

Hon. Mr. Robson said the government at present proposed to do nothing. He had no objection to the motion passing until such time as the government had time to investigate the claim.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir was never more surprised in his life at the hon. member from New Westminster city signing his name to such a report. Amidst much laughter, he read the evidence taken in the case, in which Mr. Bole stated that all Greer had done was to plant some fruit trees on his claim (laughter.)

Mr. Bole—Let me see that book.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir (handing the book to the messenger)—Oh, I've got no objection. You'll find it as I have stated.

Mr. Bole read from the same evidence to prove he had not acted inconsistently in the matter. On the occasion referred to he was free to admit he had made a mistake, and was now not ashamed to say so. (Laughter). He had felt so bad on that occasion that he had called Greer bad names, and remembered to have called him a "crank" (laughter.) But it should be remembered he was acting as counsel for the opposite party, Mr. Mackie, and it was his duty to do the best he could for his client. (Laughter.)

Mr. Grant said he would like to know what claim Greer really had to this piece of land at Granville.

The motion carried.

WAGON TIRES BILL.

Hon. Mr. Davie said this bill was a move in the right direction, as anyone who was acquainted with the way the roads were cut up by vehicles with narrow-tired wheels would admit. He would not take up the time of the house in discussing it, as all must be alive to its importance, and would therefore confine himself to moving the second reading of the bill. He would simply impress upon hon. members the fact that wide tires act as rollers while narrow tires cut up the best roads in the country, and instanced the roads in Lake and Saanich districts. If hon. members though it would prove a hardship to farmers they could move that the bill do not come into operation for a specified time. The bill was a necessity to preserve our system of roads, and he hoped it would pass.

Mr. Anderson said the bill would be of great benefit to his district, and especially now, as the roads were being covered with rock, over which wide tires would travel easier than narrow tires. Before the stone was put upon the Saanich roads the narrow tired vehicles always cut deep into the gravel, making much mud, but the wide tires would put an end to this, and he intended to vote for the bill. (Hear, hear).

Mr. Beaven termed the bill a "fad," and said he would vote against it, because it was a measure for which he saw no necessity.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said if the road bed was made properly it was a matter of indifference whether the tires were wide or narrow. Too much money was spent upon the roads now, considering our revenue, and he referred to the system adopted in Washington Territory of levying a special tax for road purposes. There were in this province 2,300 miles of roads irrespective of bridges. He thought the bill would give a great deal of trouble, and if passed it would be repealed before many years.

Hon. Mr. Turner was amazed at the stand taken by the leader of the opposition, and could only attribute it to the fact that he knew nothing of what he was talking about. In the portion of England he (Mr. Turner) came from the roads were kept in admirable condition by the use of wide tires, and if they were adopted in this province thousands of dollars would be saved to the country (hear).

Mr. Higgins was opposed to the bill and would vote against it. If such a bill were to pass it would cost every farmer in his district at least $40 for every vehicle he possessed. If passed at all it should apply to every district in the province and not to Victoria district as was intended, but as it was now he meant to vote against the second reading.

Mr. John was satisfied the wide-tire system was the best for the roads; but from the remarks he had heard from hon. members he felt the farmers would object to it owing to the cost entailed in changing their vehicles from the narrow to the wide tires. The bill would be of much good as regards the preservation of the roads; but he felt in the interest of his constituents he could not vote for the second reading.

Mr. Anderson illustrated the benefits of wide tires as used on English roads.

Mr. Duck was opposed to the bill as it would do an injustice to those who at present owned narrow-tired vehicles.

Mr. McLeese said the wide-tire system had been tried in Cariboo and did not work.

Mr. Martin said his reason for voting for the second reading was that wide wagon tires were used in Ontario. (Laughter.)

The motion for the second reading was then put and lost, by a vote of 11 to 8.

PETITION OF A. S. FARWELL.

On the adjourned debate, on motion for committee of the whole to consider the petition of A. S. Farwell, Col. Baker spoke at some length, reviewing the whole question and urging its settlement at the present time. He moved that the house go into committee of the whole to consider the petition.

The motion was then put and carried, and the house went into committee of the whole, Mr. Cowan in the chair.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir wanted the matter laid over until next session, as being the best course to pursue.

After a long discussion the committee rose without taking any action.

MR. MORRISON'S CLAIM.

Mr. McLeese moved the adoption of the report of the committee concerning the claim of Jas. Morrison.

On the question being put it was defeated.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Allen said on a question of privilege that he desired to publicly thank the *Times* newspaper editors for the space which they had devoted to him during the session. Where he had but one friend a few weeks ago, he had now ten, and as the *Times'* editors had been the means of accomplishing this end, he thought it but reasonable on his part to exhibit some gratitude (laughter.)

Mr. Grant asked the hon. chief commissioner if the northern island surveys had been defined.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said the matter was receiving attention, and the surveys would probably be gazetted during the summer.

Mr. Grant asked if any papers in the Copper matter were to be brought down?

Hon. Mr. Robson said a statement would be placed on hon. member's desks on Saturday. Preliminary steps only had been taken, and no definite scheme would be adopted without the consent of the legislature.

Hon. Mr. Robson, announcing the prorogation of the house, suggested the hon. members make a point to be present at five minutes to three. He then moved the adjournment of the house until three o'clock to-day.

After singing the National Anthem the hon. members dispersed, and the work of the session came to a close.

PROROGATION.

Closing of the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament.

The closing ceremonies in connection with the prorogation of the legislature were held Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. At that hour had assembled all hon. members, except Hon. A. E. B. Davie and Messrs. Mason and Humphreys, absent through illness. Among those present were: Sir M. B. Begbie, C. J.; Judge Harrison, U. S. Consul Stevens, Rt. Rev. Bishop Cridge, Archdeacon Scriven, Rev. P. Jenns, Revs. Dr. Reid, Donald Fraser, J. E. Starr, D. McRae and M. L. Rugg, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Glenny Anderson, Mrs. Pooley, the Misses Dunsmuir, Mrs. James Baker, Mrs. Theo. Davie and the Misses Sparrow, the Misses Jenns, Miss Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Harwood, Mr. and Mrs. Kaye, M. Davies, Judge Atkinson and many others.

A detachment from "C" Battery, under Major Peters, was drawn up on the lawn in front of the legislative hall, together with their band.

Prayers having been offered by Rt. Rev. Bishop Cridge, the coming of His Honor, Lieutenant-Governor Nelson was announced by the strains of "God Save the Queen." His Honor was preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, carrying the mace, and was accompanied by Secretary Stanton, Capt. Vankoughnet, Lieut.-Colonel Holmes and Capt. Benson.

Upon taking his seat, Mr. T. Fell, clerk of the house, read the title of the following bills:

An act to amend the "justices of the peace and coroners' oaths act, 1874."

An act relating to pawnbrokers.

An act to repeal an act, chap. 33 of 1887, intituled "an act for the preservation of the peace within the municipal limits of the city of Vancouver."

An act to constitute county judge's criminal courts.

An act respecting the "married woman's property acts."

An act to enable foreign mining companies to carry on business in British Columbia.

An act respecting the changing of the names of incorporated companies.

An act for increasing the efficiency of county courts.

An act to amend the "assize court act, 1885."

An act to prevent the spreading of noxious weeds.

An act to aid the Nicola mining company, limited, of London, to hold lands in the province of British Columbia, and for other purposes.

An act to incorporate the Kootenay railway and navigation company.

An act to amend the "municipality amendment act, 1887."

An act to incorporate the city of New Westminster.

An act to incorporate the Crow's Nest and Kootenay Lake Railway Company.

An act to further amend the "Land registry ordinance, 1870."

An act to incorporate the Harrison Hot Springs tramway company, limited.

An act for the relief of the settlers and owners of land upon Matsqui Prairie.

An act to enable the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company to construct a branch line to Beecher Bay.

An act to amend "An act respecting absconding debtors."

An act to further extend the powers of trustees.

An act to extend the provisions of the "Bridges protection act, 1864," to the Mainland of British Columbia.

An act to amend "An act to provide for the better protection of cattle ranges."

An act to amend the "Coal mines regulation act, 1877."

An act to amend the "Trial of controverted elections act, 1871."

An act to amend the "Game protection act, 1887."

An act to amend the "Land act, 1884."

An act for the benefit of mechanics and laborers.

An act for the protection of workmen's wages.

An act to amend the "Licences ordinance, 1867," and amending acts.

An act respecting recognizances.

An act to amend the "Public school act, 1885," and amending acts.

An act to assess, levy, and collect taxes on property and income.

An act to further amend the "Companies' Act, 1878."

An act to amend the "city of Victoria official map act, 1880."

An act to amend the "Municipality act, 1881," and amending acts.

An act in relation to civil procedure.

An act to amend the law relating to the sale or use of poisons.

An act to amend the "Bills of sale ordinance, 1870."

An act granting to the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway company certain lands for right of way and terminal purposes for Beecher bay branch.

An act respecting a grant of land for right of way and terminal purposes to the Crow's Nest and Kootenay Lake railway company, British Columbia.

An act to amend the "Sheriffs' act, 1873," and amending acts.

An act to amend certain statutes.

An act to extend the provisions of "An act to authorize the granting of a certain subsidy for, and in aid of, the construction of the Shuswap and Okanagon railway."

An act to aid in the further development of quartz mines.

An act to authorize the granting of a certain land subsidy for, and in aid of, the Kootenay railway.

An act to adjust the rights of settlers on the former townsite of Granville.

His Honor was pleased, in Her Majesty's name, to give assent to these bills.

The same was announced by the clerk of the House, in the following words: "In Her Majesty's name, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor doth assent to these bills."

Mr. Speaker then addressed His Honor, as follows:

May it please Your Honor: We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of British Columbia, in session assembled, approach Your Honor at the close of our labors with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government, and humbly beg to present for Your Honor's acceptance a bill entitled "An act for granting certain sums of money for the public service of the province of British Columbia."

To this bill the clerk of the Legislative Assembly, by His Honor's command, did thereupon say: "In Her Majesty's name, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor doth thank Her Majesty's loyal subjects, accept their benevolence, and assent to this bill."

Then His Honor delivered the following speech:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I am glad that the state of the public business now enables me to close this somewhat protracted session, but before relieving you from further attendance I desire to express my appreciation of the careful attention you have given to the several subjects placed before you for consideration.

The provision you have made for promoting the development of the great quartz resources of the province will, it is hoped, lead to satisfactory results; the important measure dealing with our valuable timber lands, while carefully guarding the interests of those engaged in that important industry, promises a substantial increase to the public revenue; the measures relating to the administration of justice, taken in connection with the appointment of additional county court judges, will, I feel assured, materially conduce to efficiency and economy in that branch of the public service.

The amendment to the public school act will doubtless meet with general approval, designed, as it is, to slightly relieve the public revenue of a constantly increasing burden for education, without interfering with the freedom and efficiency of our liberal common school system.

I have every confidence that these and other measures will contribute to the prosperity of the province.

I have to thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the public service, and to assure you that every care will be taken to administer the various sums with due regard to economy and efficiency.

In now relieving you from further attendance, I desire to express the earnest hope that our mutual labors for the advancement of the best interests of this portion of the Dominion may be crowned with abundant success.

Hon. Mr. Robson, provincial secretary, then said:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It is His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's will and pleasure that the Legislative Assembly be prorogued until Thursday, the twenty-eight day of June next, to be then here holden; and this Provincial Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued until Thursday, the twenty-eight day of June next.

His Honor then retired, and the proceedings of the session of 1888 were brought to a close.

THE SUCCESSFUL SIX.

Names of the Six Granville Town Lot Squatters Whose Claims are Recognized by the Railway Company.

During the debate on the second reading of the bill for the adjustment of the Granville squatters claims, the leader of the government stated that the company had consented to recognize six out of the fifteen claimants to lots in the old Granville townsite; the claims of the remaining nine would be decided by arbitration. There has been considerable speculation since the first announcement was made as to who were the fortunate six.

Tuesday afternoon Drake, Jackson & Helmcken, the railway company's solicitors in this city, forwarded the government the names of the six, whose claims had been recognized, as follows:

A. W. Sullivan, lot 7, block 3.
H. G. Onderkirk, lot 4, block 17.
I. J. Hayden, lot 10, block 3.
N. Hjorth, lot 12, block 3.
Alfred King, lot 13, block 3.
A. McCrummon, lot 9, block 17.

These lots are 66 feet frontage; are situated in the best portion of the present city of Vancouver and are worth from $8,000 to $12,000 apiece, so that the claimants will secure a handsome return after the couple of years they have been waiting for a settlement.

ROBBED WHILE ASLEEP.

A Blue Jacket Falls Asleep at the Club Theatre and is Robbed by a "C" Battery Man.

Yesterday a bluejacket from H.M.S. Wild Swan obtained leave after having been ninety days aboard the ship and during the afternoon made the acquaintance of a couple of "C" Battery men. In the evening the three attended the Club Theatre and sat in the front seat. During the evening the bluejacket feel asleep, and while snoring audibly one of his companions named John Daron, placed his hand in his breast and abstracted his pocket book. This was noticed by a couple of men sitting behind the trio. In the course of a little while the bluejacket awoke, and desiring to treat his friends sought his pocket book, but it was gone from its accustomed place. He searched his pockets and took off his hat, thinking it might be there. He stood up and asked his new friends if they had seen his pocket-book, and hunted around for it. The two men who saw the theft informed Deputy-Sheriff Langley, and he secured the services of Sergt. Shepherd and Officer Lindsay. After the performance was over Daron was quietly arrested and taken to the cells. On being searched the missing pocket-book was discovered, much to the relief and disgust of the blue-jacket, who was incensed at the shabby treatment he had received. Daron will be tried this morning, and as the two civilians can swear to the act, he will no doubt be given an adequate sentence.

CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITOR:—Would you please state that at last night's meeting of the school board, I made no attempt to censure the government for their action in taxing the cities for school purposes, as I am reported to have done in your issue of this morning.

W. WALKER,
Victoria, May 1st. Trustee.

QUAMICHAN POSTAL MATTERS.

TO THE EDITOR:—Upon going to the post office the other day for a money order, I was informed that the postmaster was absent, he being at Victoria, and would not return for two or three days and, therefore, no money orders could be issued until his return. I want to know why the public should be inconvenienced in this way.

A. SETTLER.

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, May 2.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Military Changes.

The following changes in military district staffs have been decided upon: Lieut. Col. Villiers, D. A. G., transferred to Winnipeg, *vice* Lieut. Col. Houghton, transferred to Montreal.

Runaway at Duncan's Station.

Yesterday, while Mr. W. P. Jaynes' team were leaving Duncan's station, they became frightened at an iron tank that was on the wagon and commenced to run. The driver losing control of them, they bolted, breaking the wagon and doing considerable damage otherwise.

Police Court.

F. Westbridge was charged with being drunk, found guilty and fined $5 or one week.

Martin Johnson was also fined $5 for a similar offense.

Elizabeth Isaacs, a vagrant, was allowed to go, she promising to leave the country.

The Rainfall.

Following is a list of the number of inches of rainfall from January 1st to April 30th, kindly furnished us by Mr. Livock of the Hudson's Bay Company.

	Inches	Days
January	5.02	10
February	4.77	11
March	3.43	11
April	2.36	16
Total	12.58	48

From the Selkirks.

A telegram was received from Illecillewaet last evening stating that the tunnel which was being run in, had struck the vein again in a large and rich body of ore. This is in the Selkirk mining company's property. The tunnel was run in 60 feet below the first, and at a distance of about 100 feet the air became so foul that work was impossible. The shaft was sunk to a depth sufficient to meet the tunnel and the latter completed with the above satisfactory result. Work will be pushed vigorously and the mine fully opened up.

Surrey Agricultural Society.

At a meeting of the Surrey Agricultural Society held on Tuesday last, Mr. A. Ferguson of Ligin, Mud Bay, was unanimously elected president of the society in the place of Mr. Chantrell, who resigned that office. The election of Mr. Ferguson, who is well-known in Victoria for his intimate knowledge of agricultural matters, has given great satisfaction to the members of the society, and it is hoped that under the efficient management of this gentleman the future meetings of the society will conduce to the material prosperity of this highly favored district.

Very Fishy.

There is a surprising variety of fish to be had fresh every day at our fish markets. It is not a difficult matter for the hotel or boarding housekeeper to vary the bill-of-fare at any time of year in the fish line. Yesterday at Vienna's market there were salmon, sturgeon, smelts, oolachans, herring, soles, mountain trout, two or three kinds of rock cod, including the jolly red, aldermanic variety, and others, not forgetting an abundance of oysters, clams and prawns. It would be a fault-finding customer indeed who could not be satisfied in the piscatorial line.

The Alaska Route.

A San Francisco dispatch of Sunday last says: The steamer Idaho arrived in port to-day from the north for the first time in one year. She brought a cargo of coal, and will remain here for four or five months taking on new boilers and having her machinery otherwise thoroughly overhauled. Meantime the Geo. W. Elder will take her place on the Alaska route. Capt. Lyons, who brought the Idaho down, states that he had an uneventful but very disagreeable trip. There was a heavy gale all the way to Cape Blanco, and afterwards "such fogs that you couldn't see a thing."

Tourists and Hackmen.

Hackmen who are acquainted with the matter referred to yesterday state that it is a very infrequent occurrence to overcharge a tourist or any other customer. They say that American tourists will bargain at the wharf with a hack to take a party for an hour's drive at $1.50. They will then go to the hotel with their valises, and by this move endeavor to get out of paying the hackman the 50c. apiece to which he is entitled for conveying passengers from steamers to hotels. Or they will settle up at the hotel, place the baggage in the hack and go for a drive, returning to the steamer, and thus euchre the hackman out of his fare. They say that the tourists are up to all sorts of dodges, and secure cheaper driving in Victoria than in any other city on the coast.

Cayoosh Creek Quartz.

The work of opening up the Bonanza claim goes slowly though steadily on, the shaft being down some fifty feet. The company have had altogether some twenty mill tests and assays made, which show an average yield of $60 to the ton. Four recent assays from various portions of the ledge are as follows: One from the shaft at a depth of fifty feet, $108 gold per ton; one taken from drift off ledge, $90 gold per ton; one from croppings, 800 feet above ledge, $36 in gold; another from croppings, $38 in gold. In the assays made no one has been devoid of a gold return. The owners are more confident than ever of the worth of their mine, especially since a Denver expert who visited it, stated that there was from $300,000 to $400,000 worth of ore in sight. Nothing short of a million dollars will now purchase the properties owned by the company.

At Last.

The expression, "all things come to those who wait," was never better applied then in the case of residents on the higher levels, who have been waiting for many months, aye, years, for an adequate supply of water. Notwithstanding all that has been done to prevent the work of laying the pipes on Cook street being prosecuted and the many obstacles placed in the way of the water works committee, they have at last triumphed and workmen are now engaged in laying down the pipes, which, as soon as the 16-inch steel main is laid to the lake, are to give our citizens all the water they can use. Although the men started work on Monday morning, already the ground gone over is a sufficient guarantee that the water works committee mean business, and that they will push this work to a speedy completion. Cook street, usually so quiet, presented an active appearance yesterday, due to the large force of men employed.

Bendrodt-Swanson.

Last evening one of