PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

WILL NOT CONSENT TO INVESTIGATION

Premier Refused Absolutely to Allow of Committee Looking Into Disincorporation of Dewdney.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Victoria, Jan. 24th. The legislature to-day reached its first division on a motion of Parker Williams to restrict the working of the Small Debts Act to sums exceeding \$100 accruing due to workingmen.

The shipping disaster on the West Coast attracted the attention of the Pacific shores. When the late Hon. tion under \$100, then that court might House to the necessity for life-saving facilities, and a resolution was accordingly passed upon the subject.

The proposed disincorporation of Dewdney called forth a debate, John Oliver J. R. Brown, and T. W. Paterson showing up the injustice contemplated by the government measure the government discriminated with respect to the dyking areas in Dewdney introduced. Mr. Oliver showed hov riding, represented by the premier, and the opposition riding of Delta.

Prayers were read by Rev. J. Campbell, Ph.D. Petitions.

The following petitions were read From L. W. Shatford, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate

the Southern Okanagan Railway Com-From E. V. Bodwell and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the Copper River & Telkwa

Railway Company. From James Ritchie and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate the British Columbia Central

From the Midway & Vernon Railway Company for leave to introduce a private bill to amend its corporate act. From Harry Bennett and many others, re game preservation and game

From R. L. Patterson and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to confirm to the British Columbia Northern & Mackenzie Valley Railway Company certain rights granted by the B. C. & Yukon Railway Company Act, 1903.

Valencia Wreck.

The standing rules and orders were suspended to enable the following resoution to be moved, on motion of W. Manson, seconded by J. Oliver:

"That in view of the appalling loss of life caused by the wreck of the steamer Valencia on Monday, January 22nd, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, the third accident of a similar nature within the last few weeks, the attention of this House is called to the necessity which exists for the estab- ward this resolution, which was cerlishment of life-saving appliances on that coast; and

'That an humble address be presented by this House to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to cause to be brought to the attention of the Dominion government the urgent necessity for the establishment of a life-boat station or stations at suitable points on the west coast of Vancouver Island, and that a steamer tinuously, particularly during the winter season; and that all possible steps be taken to ensure the protection of life and property on that rough and

"And that copies of this resolution

be sent to the senators and members of the House of Commons at Ottawa." Mr. Manson, in support of the motion, said the harrowing scenes witnessed by the people of his own district within the past few weeks had urged him to make this motion. He thought that the House would support it unanimously. Its object was the establishment of a lifeboat station somewhere on the West Coast, and he felt sure that as far as the provincial government could assist by providing sites or in any other way, they would be willing to do everything in their power to

Mr. Oliver, in seconding the resolution, said he did so with a feeling of sadness that it was necesarry for the House to pass a resolution of this kind. It was a matter of national regret that such appalling disasters should happen upon their shores as had happened within the past few weeks. These accidents were becoming sadly frequent, and it was appalling to think that not only men, but women and children, had lost lives which might have been saved had the proper appliances been on is hereby amended by adding thereto, hand. No help could be found nearer than Victoria, and from what they vords: 'Provided always, that this small property owners only. dition of the weather, even the vessels that had gone out were unable to give the assistance that might have been given with boats right on the spot. He was perfectly aware that the provincial government was not at all to blame for this in any way. It therefore devolved upon the government of the Dominion, which, with its large available surplus, should have no difficulty in providing means whereby these disasters might be largely averted in future. It was a bad thing for the Dominion that these accidents should take place, and above all on the shores of the Pacific Ocean, where trade was on the eve of rapid develop-

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ment. He felt sure that the House would be unanimous in calling on the Dominion government to do all that was possible to avert such appalling disasters in future. (Applause).

Premier McBride expressed his en-

while it was a matter of regret that

the legislature should be compelled to

materially assist the Federal authorities of British Columbia in taking the proper steps for the protection of our the Small Debts court had no jurisdic-Mr. Prefontaine was visiting Victoria as well not exist at all. a few years ago, the matter had been brought to his attention, and he had find that he was not in accord with more life saving appliances on the coast, and he was sure that had he lived some measures would have been taken to that end. It was as the member for Delta had said, a matter of very great regret that these accidents should have happened with such alarming frequency of late, because the stories that would go out would create an impression not at all favorable on those who were acquainted with the splendid climate British Columbia enjoyed. People would think that the climate here was severe, and we were subject to storms and fogs and other condition prevalent in other parts of North America. These conditions, it was true, sometimes prevailed around Cape Flattery, but they were not at all permanent in this part of Canada, and a knowledge of the true conditions would at once dispel any idea of the kind. It was therefore to the very best interests of the province that measures should be taken to prevent a recurrence of such disasters in future. He thanked the member for Delta for his kindly reference to the provincial government in this connec tion, and assured the House that the government would not fail to discharge any duties that might be cast upon it by reason of this terrible disaster. (Applause.)

the Valencia, was built 22 years ago,

and was absolutely unfit for carrying

valuable human lives on this coast

While sorry to introduce a seemingly

discordant note, he wished to assure

the House that his party was sincere

in wishing that human life might be

safeguarded in every possible way. He

only wished to point out that they

must continue to face this appalling

loss of human life until such time as

and to remedy them. (Applause.)

Stanley Park.

On the motion of W. J. Bowser,

solved, that an order of the House be

Small Debts Act

exceeding \$100 due, or accruing due, to

a mechanic, workman, laborer, ser-

vant, clerk, or employee, for or in re-

spect of wages or salaries."

had been proved against them.

of Stanley park at Vancouver.

mously.

T. W. Paterson said he saw no Mr. Hawthornthwaite called the attention of the House to one aspect of the question that seemed to have been overlooked by members on both sides. While calling attention to the necessity for life-saving stations on the coast, they seemed to forget that in this province every day lives were becompelled to share his misfortunes positio ing lost in other industrial pursuits. "I repeat," said Mr. Paterson These accidents were incidental to pro-"that in the case of an honest man duction as it was being carried on at this amendment is entirely unnecesthe present time. It was merely a question of cost with the predominat-House should pass any acts to protect ing capitalist party, and as human lives were the cheapest things that existed in the market to-day, less pains able and willing up to this time to prowere taken to protect them than to tect the unfortunate." (Applause.) protect anything else. He congratu-The amendment was defeated on the lated the gentlemen for bringing forfollowing division: Nays: Messrs. Drury, Brown, Evans. tainly badly needed, since twice before

cases.

Murphy, Jones, Tanner, Davidson, the Island had been shocked by acci-Henderson, Wells, Cameron, Hawdents of a similar nature. He referthornthwaite, Williams, McBride, Wilred to the cases of the Clallam and son, Houston, Green, Wright-16. other vessels. This question of Messrs. Drury, Brown, Evans, cheapness was never more strongly Oliver, Paterson, Hall, Tatlow, Cotton

his colleague from Vancouver. To say

that the amendment would help the

workingman to defraud his creditors

because it did not allow his wages to

the character of the workingman

of the province. There were of course

all kinds of workmen, as there were

but there were also those who were

unfortunate, and it was to help the

atter class that the amendment was

ntended. The object was not to re-

ease the workingmen from their ob-

igations, but to provide that their

ages should not be seized till the

harges against them were proven. He

egretted that their laws in this con-

ction were not in accord with Eng-

sonal property from him before the

ut they could attach the wages that

he had earned, and on which he de-

me were honest, some dishonest.

all kinds of men in other professions.

be garnisheed was an aspersion on

shown than in the case of the General Ellison, Clifford, Bowser, Fraser, Ross, Slocum, when it was found that the Fulton, Garden, Taylor, Young, M. life belts provided for the women and gowan, Shatford, Grant, Manson-21. children were useless because they Companies Act.

manufacturer, and the lifeboats also Act by providing for the registration were rotten. The same thing still pre- of companies mortgages was consider vailed. They leraned that this vessel, ed and passed its third reading.

Question.

J. F. Garden asked the hon, the surplus produce." chief commissioner of lands and works the following question: Is it the intention of the government to 300 struct roads through lot 540, in order to open up the land towards Point Grev for sale and settlement?

The Hon. R. F. Green replied as follows: "Yes, it is the intention of the men were intelligent enough and hu- government to open up certain streets mane enough to understand the causes the partial sub-division of lot 540, lying to the west of the naval re-The motion was then carried unani- serve."

Assessment Act.

On the adjourned debate on the amendment to the Assessment Act 3 seconded by Geo. A. Fraser, it was re- Murphy, who had moved the aljourn ment of the debate, said that he would granted for a return of copies of all not speak at length. He could exily government inaugurates a better system correspondence between this govern- discuss the bill in committee. ment and the government at Ottawa John Oliver pointed out that by the

n relation to the granting of a lease The report on the bill to amend the Mr. Williams moved to add the following new section: "Section 5 of the might be small, and thus they escaped was intended to give assistance ! section shall not apply to any debt not

The bill passed its second reading. The bill to declare the law with 10spect to ancient lights, was read a

second time. Premier MeBride in moving the sec-Parker Williams said he moved this ond reading of "An Act for the Rel'ef amendment because by the Small and Disincorporation of the Municipaldebtor against whom he had a claim. settlers in a section of the Fraser the wages of a workingman before he the business of their municipality any fully proceeded to bear up and meet the had received them, because the mo- longer. He thought the House would ment a creditor received the wages the agree with him in thinking that the position of that workman was com- settlers were wise in taking the courc promised and the confidence of his they had in applying to the governemployer was shaken. Worst of all ment to take over the debts they when the matter came up before the were utterly unable to discharge, and Small Debts court it was very often it would be right for the governmen found that the debt had never existed, to help them out, because if it should but the damage to the man's char- go abroad that one district on the acter was already done. If the debt Fraser river could not discharge obiireally existed the debtor might in the gations incurred in that way, it would Small Debts court be given time to create a bad impression, and other make payment, but under a garnishee municipalities in the same district he was allowed no time. On general would suffer in future when they principles there were great objections found themselves called upon to : orto allowing a creditor to seize the row money in the markets of the wages of a workman before any claim world. Unfortunately the gentlemen who undertook the incorporation of W. J. Bowser characterised the Dewdney some twelve years ago could amendment proposed by the member not possibly gauge what would hapfor Newcastle as class legislation of pen in future.

the worst kind. It meant that the Mr. Murphy: "Then why did they

laboring man who owed debts up to incorporate?"

\$100 was to be protected as far as the The Premier explained that the in ourts were concerned. If a man incorporation was undertaken by the curred debts it was his duty to pay land owners of the district chiefly for The result of the measure would be that the storekeeper who the purpose of dyking the land against floods. This dyke was washed away owed the wholesale merchant was unable to pay his debts because the by the heavy floods of 1894, and thouworkingman failed to pay his bills, sands of acres flooded. As a result, and he had no claim against him. In many of the settlers became discour the County courts at present the aged and moved away, and though some others came in, they did not find workingman was protected to the exthemselves able to keep up payments tent of \$40 a month in the case of a married man at least, and in the Small on the heavy debt that had been incurred by the dykes, and since 1899 Debts court he was protected to the things had stood idle in the district. extent of \$30 a month, which was suf-There had been no councils, no munificient protection in case a garnishee were obtained, A man could run cipal elections, and the whole machin debts as he thought fit, and at the end ery of the municipality had stood still. of the month his creditor would have | Consequently the companies that had ance of the bridge to what other parts o recourse at all. It had been held advanced the money for the dyles, paid. that there was no better way of en-forcing a judgment than by attaching such as the Sun Life Insurance and the Yorkshire Banking Corporation, money that was in the hands of some had been filing their claims, and if ther person than the one to whom they followed them up as they had it belonged. A man might fritter right to do everybody in Dewdney tire concurrence with the mover and seconder of the motion, and said that seconder of the motion, and said that gambling, and the creditor could not ary outstanding debts of the municipal seconder of the motion, and said that gambling, and the creditor could not are outstanding debts of the municipal seconder of the motion, and said that gambling and the creditor could not are outstanding debts of the municipal seconder of the motion, and said that help himself, but the member for pality had been settled, and the only Newcastle wanted to protect the ones left were those of the Sun Life take the matter up, it might at least workingman against some one who Insurance Company and the York. might need the money as badly as he shire Banking Corporation, which did himself. If this bill means that were both willing to compromise for payment on receipt of the principal of their debts.

"It may seem unfortunate," sailthe Premier, "that this measure was not n the bill of last year, but at that time I was not in a position to get the ompromise with the creditors that has since been obetained. John Oliver showed up some of the in-

onsistencies in the bill introduced. He contended that the land owners in the municipality were well able to pay the mount due. Instead of doing this, however, they had neglected to elect a coun cil or to carry on business, simply to get the aid asked for. For six years these residents of the municipality had paid really no state taxes. They had paid neither to the government nor to the municipality. The dyking area, he pointed out, was only a small portion of the municipality. Not one-half of the area had been flooded lands, and 95 per cent. of the municipality could obtain no benefit from the dykes. Yet these would be ish jurisprudence. In this country bill passed. Another grievance, he pointcalled upon to pay for the works if this hey could not take a man's real or ed out, was that other districts which charge against them had been proved, ing called upon to bear a share in the expense of these Dewdney dykes. Mr. Oliver pointed out how differently the pended for the existence of his famdyking lands in his riding had been ily. The result of the daily exertions dealt with as compared with this propos of these men was surely as much their ed treatment of the district in Dewdney. property as houses and lands in other As an example he cited the case of Surrey, in the Delta municipality. This district had been forced to pay \$13,000 which necessity for the amendment. In the was not owed. In Surrey the settlers case of an honest man it was not paid the whole cost of their works, and necessary to call upon the law to make were then called upon to pay additional him pay his debts; in the case of a money in order to help Dewdney's dishonest man it was neither wise nor scheme. Mr. Oliver pointed out that right to protect him; and in the case possibly this was accounted for by the of an unfortunate man it was most fact that the Dewdney district was re unfair to ask that the grocery man presented by the Premier and the Delta and the butcher and baker should be was represented by a member of the op-

T. W. Paterson agreed with Mr. Oliver that an injustice was being done to those districts which had paid for their own sary, and I don't think that 'his dyking schemes and were now called up on to aid in this. He could not approve dishonesty, and I think the people of of the conduct of the Dewdney muni-British Columbia have always been cipality in deliberately refusing to assame the duties of the municipality These people should not be allowed to send their bills to Victoria to be settled

J. H. Hawthornthwaite said that when he dyking bill came up last year he had aid that it was the duty of the province wipe out the whole of this debt. These armers could not be held responsible cause they had suffered from the acts f Providence.

hat with the evolution of capitalism the head of "Assisted Schools," under the osition of the farmer would grow worse from year to year and the honorable

Mr. Oliver-"No. no." not true will the honorable gentleman rise in his place and tell the House that

disposing of my produce I am not com- ment under section 64 of the provincial ing to this House for relief. (Applause.) elections act, pertaining to last genwill attend to my own business.

peatedly asserted on the floor of this the constituencies for which they were House, and even, I believe, by a minister of the crown, that the district I represent does not pay its fair share of axation, that it only pays some \$4,000 a year into the provincial treasury." Mr. Bowser-"I would like to ask the

on. gentleman what the municipality of Delta does pay?" Mr. Oliver-"I shall be able to ascertain the standing of the accounts when this

of bookkeeping." (Laughter.) Mr. Bowser said he had not intended to wording of the amendment a large take any part in the debate as he did not property owner who might have in- think there could be any question about mense holdings of wild land or coal the necessity of the bill before the House, land, might take advantage of the but since the member for Delta says he lower rate of taxation. Such person's cannot tell the House how the accounts 'Small Debts Act,' was considered. holdings, under the class of real prop- of his district stand I think it is my duty erty, independent of wild land, etc. to enlighten the House. I don't pose as said chapter 13 of the statutes of 1901 with reduced taxation. This was not much knowledge to find out the miserable bookkeeper, but it does not require surely the intention of the act, as it pittance which the district of Delta pays into this province." Mr. Murphy moved the adjournment of

the debate, but members of the government cried, "No, no." Mr. Murphy asked for a division, and

his motion was defeated by a vote of _J J. R. Brown could not agree that it had Debts Act of 1901 power was given to ity of Dewdney," said the bill explain- son for the proposed relief. He pointed a creditor to hold the wages of any ed itself. It was intended to relieve the out that a bad example was being set in As far as this applied to the wage River district, who, owing to the the province municipalities had got into this proposed relief. In various parts of earner there were great objections to destruction of their dykes by floods, financial difficulties. Yet these places did the practice of being allowed to hold found themselves unable to carry on not throw off the responsibility, but man-



conditions. Greenwood had passed through an experience such as this. Why should discrimination be made in favor of Dewdney? Considerable capital had een attempted to be made out of the fact that Delta farmers were well off and that sufficient taxation was not borne by them. Mr. Brown wished to know who was to blame if the farmers of Delta were not paying their share? The governnt should see that it was co The farmers could not be expected surely o come and offer to increase their taxation. Relative to the New Westminster bridge benefits to the Delta farmers. Mr. Brown pointed out that these farmers paid a high percentage of the tolls which were collected there, and thus were paying an increased share in the mainten-

The debate was adjourned on motion Hon. Chas. Wilson The House then adjourned.

(From Friday's Daily.)

Victoria, Jan. 25th. In the legislature this afternoon the Premier's remarkable bill for the reief and disincorporation of Dewdney nunicipality has been up for discussion. The leader of the opposition contributed to the debate showing that the principal involved in the bill was a very dangerous one to introduce, in spite of the fact that sympathy might be felt for the settlers in volved. The opposition pressed for a full investigation into all the circum stances connected with the question. On motion of Stuart Henderson and W. G. Cameron it was proposed that a special commission go into the subect and report to the House.

Premier McBride showed unmistakably that this was the one thing he was not prepared to agree to. He emphatically refused to consent to such an arrangement, and in doing so grew quite warm. Price Ellison alone of the government followers, supported the opposition in their motion for investigation by a committee. The House divided on the proposal, which was voted down, the Socialists supporting the government.

Prayers were read by the Rev. Dr. Report of Committees

Dr. Young presented the third report rom the private bills committee, statng that the standing orders in conection with the undermentioned petitions had been complied with, namey, acts to incorporate the British Colmbia Northern Railway Company; to amend the "Midway & Verno Railway Company, to amend the Lightning Creek Gold Gravels Drainage Company (Limited Liability) Act, 1890," to incorporte the Copper River & Yellowhead Pass Railway Company; to incorporte the Kamloops & Yellowhead Pass ailway Company; to incorporate the ompany; to incorporate the Ashcroft. Barkerville & Fort George Railway

The report was received. Dr. Young presented the fourth re ort from the private bills committee, commending that the time limit for the presentation of private bills be extended until the 5th of February. The report was received. The standing rules and orders were suspended and the report adopted.

Resolutions. On the motion of C. Munro, seconded by S. Henderson, it was resolved, "That an order of the House be granted for a return giving the names of the school districts within the E. & N. Last year I drew attention to the fact of "Assisted Schools," under the

School Act of last year." On the motion of C. Munro, secondgentleman (Mr. Oliver) must admit that ed by Dr. King, it was resolved: "That an order of the House be granted for a return showing the items of expendi-Mr. Hawthornthweite-"Well, if ... is ture in connection with the maintenance of Chilliwack dyke last year." On the motion of Dr. King, seconded he finds no difficulty in disposing of his by J. R. Brown, it was resolved: "That an order of the House be granted for Mr. Oliver-"I would inform the gentle- a return giving full particulars of elecman that when I find any difficulty in tion deposits forfeited to the governeral provincial election held in Octob-Mr. Oliver-"Mr. Speaker, I rise to er, 1903. Such return to specify th nake an explanation. It has been re- names of the candidates concerned, nominated, the amount received by the

> deposits were received by the govern-Provincial Elections Act.

government, and the date when such

On the second reading of the bill to amend the Provincial Elections Act, . H. Hawthornthwaite said that he could not see why this bill had been defeated on previous occasions. Both sides of the House stood pledged pracically to manhood suffrage. He could ot see why opposition had been put forward to a measure, the object of which was to aid in this. He blamed the Liberal party in no small measure for the defeat of this bill, and said that unfair tactics had been introduced last year. Mr. Hawthornthwaite then went into

the question of a change coming over the world. He believed that in the United States a bloody revolution was near at hand. There was an unrest evident there which would result in no other end. One thing which tended to bring this about was the depriving of the people of the ballot. Another was the putting of technicalities in the way of the people expressing their will at the polls. An instance of the latter was shown by the report that 40,000 false ballots were recently cast in New York. In Canada similar methods were being employed, reports were true with respect to the Saskatchewan and Alberta elections. The industrial conditions in the United States lent hemselves more freely to the condipride was felt that under the Union Jack the same abuses would not be On motion of W. J. Bowser the debate was adjourned.

The formal motion that supply be granted to His Majesty was introduced and disposed of, when the minister of finance proposed on Monday to go into committee of supply.

Third Reading. The bill to amend the Companies Act by providing for the registration of companies' mortgages passed its third

Assessment Act Amendment. The bill to amend the Assessment access or use for any period or of any

hammen and the same of the sam Act was committed, with A. H. B.

work.

Macgowan in the chair. J. H. Hawthornthwaite moved to "3. This act shall not affect the amend the bill by the following: "Provided always, that where a farmer owns, resides upon and cultivates a portion of land not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres in extent, and where the assessed value of such land does not exceed five thousand dollars. and the income derived from the cultisubstitution. vation of said land does not exceed one thousand dollars per annum, the

morning morning market and the second

You Won't Find Tailors

and Dressmakers using any but

Belding's Silk. They must have

strong, tough silk--free of kinks and

knots that sews smoothly and evenly

-and runs freely in the highest speed-

ed machines. That's why they choose

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Every shade and color

for dress-making,

embroidery and fancy

In support of this he said that the object was to give the government an opportunity to redeem its pledges. The fere with the accepted law with regovernment found the finances of the country in such condition that increasd taxation was necessary. The Socialists joined in supporting the government to redeem the credit of the ountry. The redeeming of the credit of British Columbia had been accomplished and taxation on the small wners of property should be reduced. The surplus was no good to look at. The increased prosperity of the cour try affected beneficially only one class, the capitalist class. The condition of the workingman was not improved the least. He believed in fact that he was not as well off. The condition of the small farmer was the same, and he felt that this class should be dealt

said land shall be exempt from taxa-

where.

er was taxed differently from other classes. Henry Tanner said that while he was always ready to support legislation which was for the benefit of farmers, this measure was not such a one, and ella Coola & Fraser Lake Railway he did not think that any self-respecting farmer would ask for it. The farmers did not come and ask for charity. Besides this the farmers outside of municipalities would be treated differently to those inside the municipali

with in a more liberal way. The farm-

ties. The result would be that there would be applications for disincorporation in order to get under the paternal government of the province. Hon. R. G. Tatlow could not support the amendment. The farmers had been dealt with liberally by the government under the Assessment Act

He hoped soon to be able to reduce the taxation, but he could not do this at the present time. It was true there was a surplus, but members must remember how that surplus was got. "Hear, hear," returned John Oliver.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow said that next year there would not be this income from the Chinese Restriction Act. J. N. Evans did not favor the bill.

He did not approve of the double method of taxation by the province and the municipality. T. W. Paterson said that the whole system of taxation in British Columbia was wrong. The farmers did not ask

to be relieved of all taxation. The exmption tended to foster a spirit off shiftlessness. The farmers were prepared to pay their share of taxation, e it either large or small.

Parker Williams said that the features of the Assessment Act which had been favored by the Socialists had been overcome by the increased assessment, so that the exemption intended were done away with. If the resources of the province were properly handled the income from them would be sufficient to pay the expenses of govern-The resources of the Crow's Nest Coal Company alone would be enough, if properly handled by the government, to pay the whole expenditure. The pioneer farmer lived under conditions much less desirable than the majority of the other people in the province. He was in favor of dealing leniently with this class. The amendment was lost, only J. H. Hawthornthwaithe, Parker Williams, W. Davidson, Henry Wright and John Houston voting for it

J. A. Macdonald pointed out that there was no clause giving an interpretation of "owner" as used in the sections dealing with the taxation on crown granted mineral and placer claims. Under these circumstances he suggested that the section should stand over for further consideration. If it went through as it stood some difficulties might arise.

The attorney-general and minister of inance agreed to this. The committee rose and reported progress, holding a few sections over for further consideration.

Ancient Lights.

The bill to declare the law with respect to ancient lights was committed, with C. W. Munro in the chair. Stuart Henderson moved that sections 2 and 3 of the act be struck out, ions described than in Canada, and and the following inserted in lieu

"2. No person shall acquire a right by prescription to the access and use of light to or for any dwelling house, workshop or other building; but this section shall not apply to any such right which has been acquired by 20 years' use before the passing of this act, nor affect the rights of the parties to any proceeding now pending in which such question has arisen before the passing of this act."

Sections 2 and 3 were as follows: "2. From and after the commencement of this act no right to the access or use of light to or for any building shall be deemed to exist, or to be capable of coming into existence, by rea

presumption of a lost grant based upo such employment.

rights of the parties to any decision pronounced by a competent court be fore the commencement hereof, or the parties to any proceeding nor pending in which such question ha arisen before such commencement." The attorney-general objected to the J. A. Macdonald pointed out the

there was a difficulty about the bill as introduced. He did not as rule favor retrospective legislation This bill was open to this objection. If it came into effect it would inter-

spect to the rights to light. He favored the spirit of the amendment which was altered so as that it was made to apply to all buildings and rights of 20 years' time was changed to rights already acquired.

The bill as amended was reported. Referred to Committee

The attorney-general moved that the Municipal Clauses Consolidation A be referred to the municipal commit-

The bill, he said, contained no new features. A desire had been expressed that this bill should be laid over until next year in order to allow of the measure being considered. He thought, however, that it would be better to proceed with the bill this year. He did not think that it would be advisable to interfere with the municipa system in the province by adopting that of Ontario in laying out the various municipalities.

The order for the second reading of the bill was accordingly discharged, and the bill referred to the municipal committee.

Dewdney Disincorporation.

On the adjourned debate on the second reading of the bill for the relief and aisincorporation of the municipality of Dewdney, the attorney-general said he admitted that the measure was almost of an unprecedented character. The circumstances were, however, unprecedented. He could not commend which had been too ready to give in and had not met its liabilities. However the good name of the province was at stake. There was danger that the land would eventually pass into the hands of bondholders. terested had, however, agreed to compromise the matter by the payment by the province of \$10,000. The sum was not an exorhitant one. J. A. Macdonald said that all the

supposed, in sympathy with the residents of Dewdney, but the bill was one of the most vicious character which he had seen. It meant that if the bill was passed that a municipality might refuse to meet the liabilities incurred and come to the legislature and ask the province to assume these. The works were carried out under the local improvement system. After the dis aster came upon them the people Dewdney had not set a commendab example. Instead of bravely facing the difficulty and endeavoring to mee the conditions, they came to the legis lature and asked the people of the province to come to their rescue. By refusing to elect a council these peo ple had avoided the paying of either municipal or provincial taxes for five or six years. He did not know just what the assessed value of the lands of the municipality of Dewdney was. He however, thought it might be supposed to be \$300,000. In the five years the taxes which had been avoided on this assessed value would have been sufficient to meet all the liabilities connec ed with the scheme. He thought the legislature should not exercise its sympathy without the most careful investigation into all the circumstances upon which aid was asked

He therefore proposed that a committee should be appointed to inquire into this matter. Other municipalities, pecially some of the cities, had met with reverses and the extension of th places were not such as was expected These places like Rossland put the assessed value much higher than the real values. These places did not come to the legislature and ask for aid. If the principle of this act were cor ect then all who suffered by the floods

of 1894 were entitled to compensation. He had every sympathy with the eople of Dewdney. He did not regard the contribution by the province of \$10,0000 as a very great one. Legis lation must proceed, however, some principle, and he was afraid this was opening the way to municipalities which got into financial trouble come to the legislature and get aid.

Stuart Henderson thought the man-(Continued on page 10.)

SUTTON'S SEEDS

WE HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AGENTS FOR THESE CELE-BRATED SEEDS AND HAVE A LARGE AND COMPREHENSIVE STOCK ON THE WAY.

BRACKMAN - KER MILLING 125 Government St., Victoria.



"Good Dog Two dancing eyes treaming up the lan girls, a long shadow the white pathway, the hoofs drew nearer. T ceased their smiting o man's voice spoke. "Better turn and wai farm, driver," the voi can you manage, man 'Who was that?" E

"A stranger?" "Not precisely," Ruth is Mr. David Steel. Oh can trust him. Don't Think of the trouble sakes."

'I do," Enid said, dril thinking of Reginald. Reginald escapes from care of the dogs we s That man's hearing is will come creeping dow large flot feet of his, an brain will take in ever flash. Good dog!"

A hound in the distance then another howled was the plaint of the found his quarry, impa gaoler to arrive. So los tinued Henson was safe to escape, and he wou pieces. Just at the no Enid almost hoped tha would be made. It ce right for the present. liams might happen ald to the stables at any The two men were They both paused as tongue. Through the trees lights gleamed fro windows of the house. and shuddered slightly

"Crimson blinds," he blinds all through this are beginning to get of What about those dogs "Dogs or no dogs, I hack now," Bell mutte fectly useless to come h time; therefore we m upon a little amateur h a girl yonder who migh me at one time, but-Enid slipped into the i was passably light and features were fairly clea

led men in the road. "The girl is here," she do you want?" Bell and his companie simultaneously: Bell beca suddenly face to face was very dear to him, it seemed to him that the voice from the darkr of his great adventure. another surprise as he sa side by side with the

wonderful voice. "Enid!" Bell cried, hoa not expect--'To confront me like t

said, coldly. "That I quit What I don't understand intrude your hated prese Bell shook his har mournfully. He looke downcast and dejected. less, perhaps, because a ing the down had seve his ankle. But for a l the Rottingdean road he have been here now.

"As hard and cruel as e "Not one word to me, no my defence. And all the the victim of a vile cons 'Conspiracy! Do you theft a conspiracy?"

"It was nothing else," eagerly. "A most extraor spiracy. The kind of thi ould not have deemed of a book."

And who might this gen' Enid asked, haughtily. "A thousand pardons for ceremony," David said. been under the impression met before I should nev "Oh, a truce to this," Bel

are wasting time. The ho

distant, Enid, when you pardon. Meanwhile I am the house, and you are go me there. Come what wa sleep to-night until I have your aunt.' David had drawn a little a kind of instinct Ruth Ga ed him. A shaft of grey li upon her cycle in the roadside. Enid and Bell

vehement whispers-th be absolutely unconsciou else but themselves. Davi the anger and scorn on th bred face; he could see Bel expanding as he brough strength and firm power "What will be the upsho

Ruth asked, timidly. "Bell will conquer," Da "He always does, you know "I am afraid you don't meaning, Mr. Steel." David looked down into age. Ever and anon the

troubled face of his compa thence away to the vivi patches beyond the dark b ness of the night was b long-drawn howl of one of David remembered it for wards; it formed the mo chapter of one of his mos

'Heaven only knows," he have been dragged into this but what it means I know than a child. I am mixed than a child. I am mixed in Bell is mixed up in it, Why we shall perha some day."

You are not angry with n "Why, no. Only you might
a little more confidence in m
"Mr. Steel, we dared not." ed your advice, and nothing Even now I am afraid I am much. There is a withering by vonder house that is beyon