Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH, 1888.

THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Proceedings of the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament.

FORTY-NINTH DAY.

FRIDAY, 20th April.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:10 o'clock.

Prayers were offered by the Rev. Donald Fraser.

HENRY HUNTER'S CLAIM.

Mr. Semlin moved, seconded by Mr. Beaven, that whereas Henry Hunter, near Hope, in British Columbia, has resided upon his land claim for twenty-one years, and has at great labor and expense improved said land, and has paid taxes upon one hundred and sixty acres as they fell due; that he had his claim surveyed by a provincial surveyor in 1886; that in the year following it was discovered that Mr. Hunter had only recorded eighty acres, and that a Crown grant from the provincial government could only issue for the amount of eighty acres. As all lands not sold by the provincial authorities fell to the Dominion government and ceased to be controlled by the province, this house recognizing the hardship of Mr. Hunter's case,

Therefore be it resolved, that a respectful address be presented to his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying his Honor to urge upon the Dominion authorities the justice of allowing Mr. Hunter to complete the title to the eighty acres which he had surveyed as a part of one hundred and sixty acres.

Carried.

QUESTION.

Mr. Ladner asked the Premier the following: What action do the government intend to take to comply with the prayer of the the petition presented to this house during the present session of John Dercocher, Wm. Charters, Lawrence Hudson, J. McBride, and others, in relation to the condition of the fences along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway in New Westminster district?

Ans.: It is intended to make proper representations to the Dominion government upon the subject.

STATUTES AMENDMENT BILL.

Hon. Mr. Davie, in moving the second reading of the bill to amend certain statutes, said that the bill comprised necessary amendments to civic statutes. The details could be better explained when considered in committee.

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

Committee reported the bill complete with amendments.

LIEN LAWS.

Mr. Bole moved that the report of the Lien Law Bill, No. 21, be received. He said he was not prepared to accept any amendments. The bill which Hon. Mr. Davie was fathering, was a contractor's bill; his (Mr. Bole's) was a workman's bill.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that such was not the case. The fact was that there were 141 workmen awaiting the passage of the bill he had in charge, in order to secure their wages, due from the city to an absconding contractor.

Mr. Bole—They are clients of yours? (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Davie—Not one of them is a client of mine. The bill you desire to become law will not have the effect desired. It may help some of your clients.

Mr. Bole—If it does, my clients are respectable men [looking up to the gallery] and I not ashamed of them.

Hon. Mr. Davie—There are some of them in the gallery now. (Great laughter.)

Mr. Duck said that there was something wrong somewhere—the bill was not the one reported on by the special committee.

After some discussion, the bill was allowed to stand over until Monday for report.

MECHANICS AND LABORERS BILL.

Hon. Mr. Davie said the bill had been drawn upon the same line as the bill of 1879, with provisions shown to be desirable by the past nine year's experience. Clauses within it would meet cases which had recently arisen, where workmen were kept out of their wages through the sudden departure of contractors.

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

On the consideration of clause 3, Mr. Bole claimed that if that clause was passed as it stood, it would simply mean the destruction of the usefulness of the whole act. It would in fact, give back to the workingmen, a stone in answer to their cry for bread.

After futher discussion, this and the remaining clauses passed.

The committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments.

Report received, to be considered at next sitting of the house.

QUESTION.

Mr. Allen asked if the government intended to take any action with reference to the squatters' claims.

Hon. Mr. Robson answered, it is decidedly the intention to do so. Negotiations are now going on, but the official announcement cannot be made until an important document bearing on the question has been received from Ottawa.

SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT.

The report of the select committee on the claim of Samuel Greer to certain lands at English Bay, was referred back to the committee.

SHERIFFS' BILL.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of an act relating to sheriffs.

Mr. Higgins complained of the absence of a clause relating to sheriffs' fees, and instanced several cases where debtors' goods were sacrificed as the law now stands.

Hon. Mr. Davie said the fees in connection with the office were small, and in the course of a year amounted to very little, with, perhaps, one or two exceptional cases such as recently occurred in Victoria. He thought a very good plan was to do away with the fee system altogether and pay the sheriff a regular salary. However, it was too late to do anything in this direction during the present session. A sheriff was not justified in sacrificing goods, and if he does so, he is responsible.

The motion for second reading was then carried.

It being 6 o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

EVENING SESSION.

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

BILLS OF SALE ORDINANCE.

Hon. Mr. Turner moved the adoption of the report on the above-named bill. Carried.

Bill read a third time and passed.

BEECHER BAY RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the Beecher Bay Railway Bill. Carried.

The bill was then committed, Mr. Ladner in the chair.

The various clauses were passed without discussion.

Committee rose and reported the bill complete without amendment.

Report received; bill read a third time and passed.

CROW'S NEST RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the Crow's Nest and Kootenay Lake Railway Company Act. Carried.

The bill was then committed, Mr. Duck in the chair.

Committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments.

Report received, to be considered at next sitting of the house.

LICENSES ORDINANCE.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of the Licenses Ordinance Amendment bill. Carried.

Bill read a third time and passed.

QUESTION.

Mr. Orr asked the hon. the minister of finance what amount of revenue did the government receive from the Hastings and Moodyville Saw-mill companies for timber out on government lands in 1887?

Ans.:—$2,815.38.

SCHOOL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

House went into committee on the School Act Amendment bill, Mr. Mason in the chair:

A discussion ensued over clause three, which provides for the appointment of university graduates as teachers.

Hon. Mr. Robson said it was a prejudice against university men in desiring them to undergo an examination here. He contended it was in the true interest of education to invite here gentlemen of such high scholastic attainments, and we would be studying the true interests of education by opening the door to such men and bringing them here as an example to our own home-grown teachers. It was by such means we would make our system of education second to none, and it was all the more necessary as we had no universities of our own to draw from.

Mr. Semlin was opposed to the clause, and moved in amendment that "such degree shall only entitle the holder to act in the high schools of the province."

Mr. Beaven also spoke in opposition to the clause, but did not consider the amendment an improvement.

Mr. Semlin withdrew his amendment.

The question was then put and the clause carried.

The remaining clauses down to clause 10 passed without discussion.

On clause 10, Hon. Mr. Robson moved to amend the section as follows:

One third of the salaries of the teachers employed in the public schools in the cities of Victoria, Westminster, Vancouver and Nanaimo, shall be borne and paid by the municipal corporations of the said cities respectively.

Hon. Mr. Robson explained that the object of this and some other proposed amendments was to reduce the tax on these municipalities to exactly one-third the amount of the teacher's salaries. It was also proposed to empower these cities to impose a fee on the pupils of the high school, said fee to go towards the amount to be paid by the cities towards the cost of education.

Mr. Beaven said the clause was a blow at our school system, and it would be a great mistake to allow the entering of the wedge to break up the system. He moved the whole clause be struck out.

Hon. Mr. Davie said although there was some dissatisfaction felt over this bill at the present time, it was because the bill was not properly understood. Instead of being a blow at the schools it was a powerful argument in their support. Justice must be done to outside localities. While the revenue from the city was large, it nearly all went to the city treasury and was spent for civic purposes. In comparison with the amount received by the government from the city he enumerated the various sums expended by the government in Victoria. The exact amount to be asked from the city was only $5,780, not a very large sum to raise such a great noise about. He would favor the passage of a clause placing a fee on high school pupils, provided, however, those who could not pay the fee should be entitled to have their children admitted free of all charge. As matters stood now, the outlying districts were over-taxed for their share of education, and there was a growing feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the residents of those districts at the way they were at present taxed to support the schools.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir said it was the duty of the government to see that the children in the outlying districts were properly educated. There might be some dissatisfaction expressed now; but people would in time come to acknowledge the benefit of the present bill. The proposed tax was only a mite, and as regards the high schools, he was not afraid to say boldly that those who wanted classical educations for their children should be made to pay for them. He hoped the clause would pass, as he felt certain it would tend to the ultimate benefit of the school system. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Bole doubted the system of having free high schools at all. The province was providing for the sons of wealthy parents what would be called in the Old Country a collegiate education. But, although he was not in accord with the education system, he felt it was one of such paramount importance that the whole expense should be borne by the province, and it would not be good policy to make the municipalities bear part of the cost.

Hon. Mr. Robson said the cost of education had kept on increasing until it now reached the enormous sum of $135,710 yearly, and it would be most unjust were we to continue asking the outside districts to continue to maintain this vast system of education in the four cities, where nearly all this outlay was incurred. It was to alter this state of things that the present bill was passed, and to put a fraction of the burden upon the most wealthy communities. He felt when the principle of the bill was fairly understood it would be endorsed and approved, as it was already by the leading newspapers in Victoria and Vancouver. Under this measure, Victoria will be required to pay $5,780, and the proposed fees from the high school will more than cover half of this, so that the balance to a wealthy city like Victoria is hardly worth talking about. Looking at the great cost of education now, there was no other course open, and he maintained it was in the interest of the educational system that the municipalities should bear a part of the burden (hear, hear).

Mr. Fry, as a representative of a rural district, spoke strongly in favor of the bill, saying that it was a sin and shame that the poorer districts like Cowichan should be expected to maintain high schools in the cities for the benefit of the children of wealthy parents. There should be more rural schools, because the children of the remote districts reaped no benefit whatever from the high schools.

Mr. Grant spoke at length against the bill, and said if the cities polled to-morrow they would go ten to one against altering the present school system.

Mr. Beaven's motion that the whole clause be struck out was lost, eleven to eight.

Mr. Duck moved an amendment that the committee rise and refer the bill back to the government for amendment so as to enable the municipalities to bear the expense in connection with the high schools only.

This amendment was lost.

Section ten, casting the burden of paying one-third of the teachers' salaries on cities, was passed, on a division of eleven to eight.

A new section, permitting city school boards to impose a tuition fee on high school scholars so as to defray the whole or part of the cost of sustaining such high schools, was passed.

Another section, creating the mayor of each city for the time being chairman of the school board, was also passed.

The committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments.

House adjourned till 2 p. m. on Monday.

FIFTIETH DAY.

MONDAY, April 23rd.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:10 o'clock.

PRIVILEGE.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir, on a question of privilege, said he had something to say in regard to that sheet called the *Times*. He did not complain of being misreported altogether, but found fault with the fact that what he had said before and after the few lines published was not reported. Had this been done his remarks would have appeared in a different light, and the country would not have been told that he was opposed to education. He never stated such an opinion, nor yet said that education would be the ruination of the country. What he had said was that this large expenditure for educational purposes would be an injury to the country if something was not done with the question. However, if those who managed the *Times* thought fit to garble remarks of hon. members for the sake of creating a ground on which to base misleading articles, he could only say they exhibited that glaring ignorance in the conduct of their paper of which they accused other people. His sentiments regarding education were well known, for he had frequently stated them at public meetings and in this house. It was not that he was opposed to education, for he was not, but he could see that the amount devoted for education increased year by year, and if some method was not devised by which it could be curtailed, it would eventually bring the province into financial difficulty. Let the *Times* fire away with its low-toned articles. With many others he (Hon. Mr. D.) considered it the most scurrilous sheet published on the Pacific coast, and unfit to enter the homes of citizens. He referred to the matter, not because he thought the dishonest articles in the *Times* would injure himself or his friends. The effect would recoil on the managers of the contemptible sheet (hear, hear).

Hon. Mr. Davie—Its managers are as contemptible in their character as the newspaper.

Mr. Grant (excitedly)—Oh! oh!

Mr. Allen (casting a withering look towards the reporter's gallery)—The *Times* reporters should not be permitted to enter this house (hear, hear and laughter).

CUSTOM SMELTERS.

Mr. Cowan moved, seconded by Mr. Mason, that in the opinion of this house it is advisable that the money voted last session to aid in the development of quartz mines, together with that granted as bonuses, be used to erect small mills and reducing works for testing purposes, in such places as the government may determine, as it would enable individual miners to prospect and develop the quartz ledges in the outlying districts of the province.

The hon. mover said that the resolution did not ask for a new appropriation, but was simply placing the money granted last session in such a way that it can be utilized for the erection of reduction works for treating the sulphuretic ores of the country. This would confer a lasting benefit on the province generally. All quartz so far discovered in Cariboo district contained a large percentage of sulphurets, which, either in itself or in combination with some other substance, possessed the peculiar quality of fouling the quicksilver, thus preventing the formation of an amalgam with the gold. Even in the oxidized ore, enough sulphurets are found to produce this undesirable effect. He considered the most feasible plan for the government to adopt would be to erect small reduction and smelting works in outlying districts, as it would enable individual miners to prospect and develop the ledges. It was the individual miner who prospected and developed the alluvial mines, and they were quite capable, if they were assisted by such works, to prospect and develop the quartz mines. There was no other industry, if it were properly developed, that would prove of more benefit than the mining industry. If they looked back upon the early times, it would be seen that it was the mining industry that gave to the province its first start. It was the mines that settled the country and supported the settlers. At no time was the province more prosperous than when the mines were being worked successfully, and he considered the government should make every effort to again get them working prosperously.

Mr. Mason, in seconding the resolution, said that he regarded the proposition as a step in the right direction. Every hon. member must admit the desirability of erecting crushing, chlorination and smelting works in different parts of the province. Such action could not but result in good. In Cariboo district he was sure that the erection of such works, to be run in connection with the assay office in Barkerevile, would be the greatest boon that could be conferred upon the miners of that district. A number of miners during the past summer and winter had been endeavoring to establish the fact that they had paying quartz. But they had only arrived at that stage of separating the sulphurets from the quartz, and that by a very primitive method. What they now required was the erection of such works as are referred to in the resolution to enable them to free the gold from the sulphurets. This would prove to the outside world that they had paying quartz ledges, for this was the only way in which outside capitalists could be induced to invest in their mines. He felt sure that hon. gentlemen would see at once the importance of the measure, and would give it their support. He might add that very numerously signed petitions had been presented, asking that such works be erected. One was signed by nearly three hundred names. Another, signed by residents in Lillooet and Yale districts, was more important from the fact that it was without the districts where it was contemplated to erect the works in question.

Col. Baker heartily supported the object of the resolution. There was something necessary to be done in order to bring the quartz mines of the province into a state of development. There were many miners who prospected for and discovered ledges, but owing to a lack of capital it was impossible for them to send sufficient quantity of ore to a smelter where it could be properly tested. Capitalists visiting the ledges held by very worthy miners always asked that such be done, and if mills such as suggested by the resolution were erected in the districts, where large amounts of mineral were known to exist, it would aid in the rapid development of the quartz mines, and thus hasten the prosperity of the province. Of course, if it was decided that such mills should be erected, Kootenay district would certainly be given one, for in it were numerous mines of great extent and value.

Hon. Mr. Robson considered the end sought by the resolution was of vital importance. Efforts had been made towards this direction by a former house, but so far results showed that they had apparently commenced at the wrong end. The appropriation made last year was a liberal one, but they had again been disappointed. It was apparent that something different from the practice heretofore followed was necessary, and that whatever was done should be started at the right end. It was impossible for miners to secure the countenance of capital by sending small quantities of rock to San Francisco or elsewhere for test, and there could be no question that test mills of the kind suggested should be erected at convenient points. The richness of the ledges could thus be accurately determined. This done it would not then be a difficult matter to attract capital for the purpose of their development. The amount necessary for the erection of these smelters would not be very great, and might quite properly be taken from the unexpended portion of last year's appropriation. Legislation should be had that would allow of the taking of a sufficient amount for the erection of two mills, one in Cariboo and the other in Kootenay district. If one mill only was to be erected, there could be no question that it should be located in Cariboo district. In this district there was a belt of ledges of great promise, and it was in the general interest of the province that their worth should be fully demonstrated. It would also be conceded that it was unnecessary to erect a mill along the line of the Canadian Pacific railway, for it was now beyond doubt that a smelter would be erected at Vancouver, and this would be available for all ledges adjacent to the railway line. It was undoubtedly the duty of the legislature to use every means at their command to determine once for all to the satisfaction of capitalists the extent of the quartz wealth of the province, and the establishment of test smelters he considered the best means to attain that end. This done it would place the province on the high road to prosperity. They were moving in the matter of securing a railway into Cariboo, and he considered that the successful development of one or two quartz ledges in that district would induce the construction of a railway more quickly than any other means. Successful quartz development would cause the prosecution of large public works and inaugurate an era of unprecedented prosperity in the province. He thought they should first aid the opening up of the quartz industry and the latter would build the railway. He complimented the first and second members for Cariboo district for bringing the matter forward in its present shape, and trusted that the future would bring to them the gratitude of a satisfied and prosperous people.

Mr. Duck thought the move was a step in the right direction and should be supported.

Mr. Grant asked if the taking of the money from the appropriation made last year would interfere with companies who were working mines and had applied for the assistance under the act.

Hon. Mr. Robson said the rights of those companies would be protected. He might say that the utilizing of a portion of the money appropriated last year would not interfere with the companies which had applied.

AID TO QUARTZ MINES.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked leave to introduce an act to aid in the development of quartz mines.

Leave granted; bill read a first time; second reading Tuesday.

THE MATSQUI ACT.

Mr. Bole moved, seconded by Mr. Orr, that this house do immediately resolve itself itself into a committee of the whole to consider bill (No. 26) entitled "an act for the relief of settlers and owners of land upon Matsqui prairie."

The hon. mover thought that the house had not fairly considered the injustice that was being done to the settlers by its action in killing the bill the other day.

Mr. Duck asked if the present action was in order. It was a private bill, and he thought had been finally determined upon.

Hon. Mr. Davie considered that the bill was quite in order, and referred to instances where a similar practice had been followed.

Mr. Speaker decided that the motion was in order.

Col. Baker thought the matter should not have been brought before the house again. It had been decided that a year's grace should be given to the capitalists who had entered into the scheme, and it would be unfortunate to interfere in any contracts which had been entered into.

Mr. Ladner thought that there was but one difference between the act of 1878 and that of 1883, the latter simply requiring that the dyke be kept in good repair for two years. The settlers, he knew, were anxious that the dyke should be built and the land reclaimed under the act of 1878, and were quite willing to come under its provisions. A great deal had been said about protecting foreign capital, but he would like to know where foreign capital was protected in the assessment act passed this year. Foreign capital had been invested in Vancouver bonds, under the charter permitting the collection of personal property tax by the city. But this provision had been taken away by the act of this year. Where was foreign capital protected in this instance!

Hon. Mr. Davie referred to the great injustice that would be done the settlers if they were allowed to remain under the unfortunate act of 1883.

Hon. Mr. Robson said he would support the house going into committee provided the proposed bill was for the purpose of placing all parties under the act of 1878.

Mr. Beaven said that as the parties interested had not petitioned for a change in the arbitration, this house could not pass any legislation leading to that end.

Mr. Semlin said if they had committed a mistake in 1883 it would be better to let matters rest as they were, for they might simply increase the injustice.

Mr. Bole said that there was a great deal of misconception on this question. The settlers had petitioned for a change, that is the actual settler, not those who acquired land for speculation. A great deal had been said about this bugbear of foreign capital, and one would almost think that if they made any change in this act they would never see another dollar of foreign capital. But while some hon. members worshipped at the shrine of Mammon in the shape of foreign capital, they had nothing to say on the other hand of the poor settlers, who seemed as the clod of the earth under their feet. The speaker went over the details of the matter, and concluded by urging the house to refrain from doing an injustice to one party, but to endeavor to do what was fair to both parties concerned.

On the motion being put, it was carried by 12 to 8.

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

Committee reported the bill complete without amendment.

VOTERS' ACT.

Hon. Mr. Robson asked leave to introduce a bill intituled "an act to amend the 'qualification and registration of voters' act, 1876.'"

Leave granted; bill read a first time; second reading Friday.

JOHN DROUT'S CLAIM.

Mr. Anderson moved, seconded by Mr. John—That the house do forthwith resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider the petition of John Drout.

The hon. mover said that the petitioner was the contractor for supplies to the Victoria gaol. This was some nine years ago, and during that time the Dominion government had raised the duty on flour $1.50, by which the petitioner was the loser.

Mr. Orr thought that the Dominion government were the proper parties to apply to.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that Mr. Nesbitt, who had the contract for supplying the navy at the same time, was compensated by the Imperial government for the amount paid extra for duty on flour.

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

In committee, Hon. Mr. Davie said that he understood that the petitioner had come before the government of which Mr. Beaven had been a member and asked relief, but that government had either refused to grant it, or had gone out of office before they could consider it. He would ask the hon. leader of the opposition if such was the case.

Mr. Beaven said that he really could not remember.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that the hon. leader of the opposition had a faculty of evading any question asked him. He usually had a good memory, but on this occasion found it convenient to be without it.

Mr. Beaven—Do you know anything about it?

Hon. Mr. Davie acknowledged that Mr. Drout had spoken to him in his capacity of a city member, and he had also told him that he had spoken to Mr. Beaven, and yet that hon. gentleman seemed to be apparently totally in the dark on the matter (laughter).

After further consideration it was decided to allow the matter to be dealt with by the Government. Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir suggesting this course.

The committee rose.

S. & O. RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of a bill extending the time provided in the grant to the Shuswap and Okanagon railway from three to four years. So far the promoters had not secured the aid sought from the Dominion government, and it was desirable that the terms made by this house should be extended one year.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said there was no official information on the question. The federal government might still be induced to grant the subsidy asked for.

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

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir suggested that two additional years be granted, and moved that "five" be inserted instead of four.

This carried unanimously.

Committee reported the bill complete with amendments.

NEW WESTMINSTER INCORPORATION.

House went into committee on the New Westminster Incorporation Bill, Mr. Semlin in the chair.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

House adjourned until 2 o'clock Tuesday.

FIFTY-FIRST Day.

TUESDAY, 24th April.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:10 o'clock.

REPORTS.

Mr. Fry presented the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the causes that led to the dismissal of Philip Woollacott. Report received and ordered to be printed.

VOTER'S BILL.

Hon. Mr. Robson said that the bill of which he now moved a second reading, had been introduced into the house during the past five sessions, formerly by Mr. Drake, Q.C., and since by himself. The general line of argument in favor of women being enfranchised was well known to this house, and it would not be necessary to go over the ground again. In the east and in England this question had made substantial progress, and he was glad to see from the newspapers that the Premier of Canada had seponsed the principle. It was a fact that, as he had stated on a previous occasion, the greatest nations of the earth were those which had the highest respect for morality and religion, and the addition of women to the list of those entitled to exercise the franchise would have a strong tendency to elevate the standard of morality. There could be no question that the majority of women in this province were in a better position to cast an intelligent vote than a great number of those already on the list (hear, hear). Enfranchising women would add about one-third to the list of voters. The women of this province were in a position to cast a more intelligent vote than the women of other provinces of the Dominion, for a large number of them had experienced the same hardships incident to pioneer life as the men, and had their wits sharpened, if he might so speak. They were thus able to discriminate upon public questions as well as the sterner sex. It was unnecessary for him to dilate further upon the question, and he trusted that the measure would receive the hearty support of hon. members.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir rose to speak, but seemed to be overcome with amusement, and after standing a few minutes decided that he would say nothing on the matter. The incident convulsed the house.

Hon. Mr. Turner did not consider that the enfranchising of women would have that high moral tendency which the hon. provincial secretary held would ensue. There was another sphere in life where they could exercise that influence on morality which had been referred to, in a more successful manner. He did not think that the itinerant female lecturers that frequently visited them were calculated to set a very high example to them. There was also another consideration. The question of making it unlawful to solicit votes had been referred to. He would ask hon. members to consider the undue influence that would be exercised in a political campaign, were women enfranchised, by a good looking man, such as the hon. member for Cassiar. (Great laughter.) He would obtain a majority every time. But nonsense aside, he did not consider that it would be in the interests of anybody concerned to allow women to vote, and he would therefore have to cast his vote against the second reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the previous question. This was withdrawn and the motion that the bill be read a second time was put. This was lost by a vote of 12 to 6.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Grant, on a question of privilege, said that he had been reported in THE COLONIST as having exclaimed in an excited manner while the hon. president of the council was stating a question of privilege, "Oh! oh!" He was not excited, nor had he made use of the exclamation attributed to him. His being credited with it was the reverse of the truth.

AID TO QUARTZ MINES.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of a bill to aid in the further development of quartz mines.

Mr. Beaven said he would like to see a provision incorporated into the bill that would induce the development of iron mines. They had many valuable iron deposits, and he thought their development should be encouraged.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir thought the suggestion a good one. However, he had gone into figures, and knew at the present rate of duty, $9, that it would be impossible to successfully operate smelting works. If the duty were removed they would then have a market.

Col. Baker said that while not grudging Cariboo anything it received in the way of developing its quartz mines, yet that district had already been given considerable encouragement, and he thought that in the present instance, two mills should be granted, one to be erected in Cariboo, the other in Kootenay. The latter district ranked second to Cariboo in its quartz wealth, and while the C.P.R. ran through the northern portion of Kootenay, yet southern Kootenay was isolated, and he thought it but common justice to make provision for a test mill in that portion of the district.

Hon. Mr. Robson was quite in sympathy with the remarks of the hon. member for Kootenay, and he thought it would be wise to place a sum in the bill which would be adequate for the construction of two mills. While doing so it would be with the understanding that the amount was not to be expended until the inquiries made showed that it was of the greatest desirability. The work should not be gone on with until the government had positive information on the best principle upon which the works should be erected.

Mr. Grant thought it advisable for this or any other government to take any steps that would lead to the development of the quartz industry. Citizens of the province had spent many hundreds of thousands of dollars in the endeavor to develope the mines, and they should be encouraged. He also favored the encouragement of the iron industry. They had all the raw material for the production of a high class of iron and steel, and if there was a possibility of government aid inducing the starting of iron works he would support it being granted.

Mr. Bole agreed that the establishment of test mills such as proposed would be the best means that could be taken to induce the development of the mines. He thought that a larger sum should be placed at the disposal of the government.

Mr. Orr asked if it was the intention of the government to operate these works.

Hon. Mr. Robson said that in Cariboo they now had an excellent assayer, and it was the intention to place the test mills under his superintendence, as it was generally considered that he was competent to undertake the task. Miners having rock to test would bring it to the works and use the available labor that was always to be had in the vicinity of the mill. This would allow the individual miner to have his ledge tested at a price which he would be able to meet. The works were not established for the purpose of making money, but with the intention of aiding the poor man in the development of his property. In Kootenay district, where a different state of things prevailed, some other feasible method would be followed which would attain the desired result.

Mr. Orr said that the city of Vancouver had given a $25,000 bonus for the purpose of securing smelting works, and this had been accepted, and works costing $80,000 or $100,000 would be erected. The city had no outlay in connection with the works after their construction. He thought if the $70,000 were divided into three bonuses they would secure the erection of three reduction works in three sections of the province. After the payment of bonuses the government would have no charge to meet in connection with their working.

Hon. Mr. Robson said the hon. gentleman misunderstood the intention. The works were to be established for the purpose of testing the ores, not for the purpose of making money, and he did not think that the end intended would be reached by securing the erection of large customs smelters.

Mr. Cowan said that the circumstances were vastly different between Vancouver and Cariboo. The latter had the mines all along the line of railway from which to draw custom, and there was the reasonable possibility of their paying. But no capitalist would expend money in erecting works for reducing ores in Cariboo, which was 280 miles from the railway, before the ores there were demonstrated to be worthy of the erection of such works. The system as explained by the leader of the government was the only method by which the end sought could be attained.

Mr. Beaven called attention to the fact that it was necessary to bring in the bill by message, and the matter was withdrawn until the proper course could be followed.

CIVIL PROCEDURE BILL.

Hon. Mr. Davie, in moving the second reading of the bill, explained the meaning of the various amendments proposed to the civil procedure of the courts, which he claimed would greatly facilitate the administration of justice.

Mr. Bole in favoring the bill referred to the unsatisfactory condition of things at present existing through defects in the procedure of the courts.

Mr. Higgins called attention to the enormous cost of the administration of justice. It footed up $115,000 a year. A great deal had been said about the cost of education; but it did not come within $4,000 of the amount required to administer the laws. He urged greater economy by the government and ridiculed the existence of separate gaol establishments when there should be but one, and one staff of officials where there are now half-a-dozen.

After further consideration, the house went into committee, Mr. Thomson in the chair.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

S. AND O. RAILWAY.

The bill extending the time of agreement with the promoters of the Shuswap & Okanagon railway was read a third time and passed.

LIEN BILL.

Mr. Bole, on report, moved an amendment to clause 6. This was to strike out the words "consent in writing."

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir thought the bill at present before them was a dangerous one. The other bill, which was also up for report, was a far simpler measure and better authority than he had so decided.

The amendment was lost.

The bill was killed on the following division:

Ayes—Bole, Beaven, Semlin, Ladner, John, Duck.

Noes—Dunsmuir, Robson, Davie, Turner, Vernon, Fry, Baker, Higgins.

MECHANICS AND LABORERS BILL.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved the second reading of this bill. He had voted against the former Lien bill because, if passed without the amendments, as explained by the hon. member for Westminster city, it would have left the province without a lien law altogether. The measure now before them had been carefully prepared, by others as well as himself, and would, he thought, be the best lien law the province had so far had.

The report was adopted unanimously, and the bill read a third time and passed.

MUNICIPALITY ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. Higgins moved the adoption of the report.

After a couple of amendments, given notice of by Mr. Grant, had been added to the bill, it was read a third time and passed.

KOOTENAY RAILWAY.

Mr. Speaker read a message from the lieutenant-governor approving the granting of a subsidy to the Kootenay railway; also one approving of the bill granting aid for the further development of quartz mines.

House went into committee on the quartz bill, Mr. Anderson in the chair.

The committee reported the bill to the house.

The bill was read a first time; second reading Wednesday.

KOOTENAY RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. Robson moved that the house go into committee on the following day on the bill granting a land subsidy to the Kootenay Railway and Navigation Co.

CROW'S NEST RAILWAY.

The bill granting a right of way to the Crow's Nest and Kootenay Railway was read a third time and passed.

ASSESSMENT BILL.

On the report of the above act several amendments were made.

Mr. Ladner moved that Sec. 47, prohibiting the collection of personal property tax in Vancouver be struck out. He claimed that the credit of the city would be injured by passing the clause.

Messrs. Orr and Bole favored the striking out of the clause.

Hon. Mr. Robson was in favor of expunging the clause and leaving the charter of Vancouver undisturbed. The corporation was now in the money market floating large loans, and, small as the item of personal property tax might be, it constituted a part of the basis of the credit of the city. This was, therefore, a critical time to disturb that basis, and the consequences might be very serious. He had received, by telegraph, a strong protest from the city of Vancouver, and, while quite aware that the clause referred to should never have been in the Vancouver charter, yet, under the circumstances, it had better remain undisturbed, and thus avoid the possible fatal consequences.

Mr. Ladner's amendment carried.

LAND ACT.

House went into adjourned committee on the land act amendment bill, Mr. Higgins in the chair.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

MUNICIPALITIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Hon. Mr. Robson, in moving the second reading of this measure, explained its provisions. In the first place, it gave municipalities power to impose a high license, not, however, exceeding $1,000 a year for the retail of intoxicating liquors, a power which he thought desirable, both as a means of lessening the number of licensed houses and keeping the traffic in the hands of more responsible persons. In the second place, it provided that no license shall convey the right to sell on the Sabbath day. Several of the municipalities had evinced a disposition to prohibit the Sunday liquor traffic; but the decisions of some of the judges cast doubt upon their power to do so, under the present license system. He hoped all would concur in the desirableness of placing the municipalities in a position to enforce the closing of these places on the Sabbath. Thirdly, it contained the principle of local option,—a principle which must commend itself to every right-thinking person. No power should be able to force the liquor traffic into any community contrary to the will and protests of a majority. In the fourth place, it provided that the issue of a restaurant or table license should be surrounded with the same safeguards as any other liquor license, and instanced the experience of Chilliwhack in order to show how easy it was to carry on a regular, or rather irregular, liquor traffic under cloak of such license. The hon. gentleman concluded with a pathetic appeal to the house to make this extremely moderate measure a live bill, in a previous measure, asked for a whole loaf, and had met with denial. He now modestly asked for, not half a loaf, but a mere crumb of bread, and he hoped the house would grant it.

After slight discussion, on the vote being taken, the bill was killed, 6 to 8.

Mr. Semlin asked for the names to be taken, remarking that the leader of the government must surely desire the names to be recorded.

Hon. Mr. Robson promptly replied that he had no such desire. He had been accused of bringing forward these measures for political effect only; but he had no wish to make any political capital out of the division by asking that the names be recorded (applause).

SHERIFFS' BILL.

House went into committee on the sheriffs' bill, Mr. Anderson in the chair.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

House adjourned until two o'clock on Wednesday.

PERSONAL.

Frank Fleming, nephew of Mr. F. Campbell, left for his home in Butte, Mont., this morning.

Rev. Benjamin Longley, who was implicated in the Toronto scandal case, has skipped across the line.

Mlle. Spizzi, wife of Dr. Spizzi of the Parthia, will arrive here in a few days and give a concert to German residents.

James Crowthers, barrister, of Toronto, died on Friday morning, aged 63. He was one of the wealthiest men in the city.

H. V. Edmonds, Rev. Mr. Brown, and I. Van Volkenburgh were passengers from the mainland by the Louise last night.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys was again in the house yesterday for a couple of hours, but was unable to take part in its proceedings.

It is said that Sir Andrew Stuart, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, Quebec, is about to retire and that he will be succeeded by Mr. Bossé, Q. C.

Mrs. Hamilton, widow of the late Hon. John Hamilton, who died only a few days ago, expired suddenly on Thursday evening. Grief was the cause.

R. McLeese, M. P. P., who has been absent from the House for several days past, having a severe cold, he is, we are glad to hear, rapidly recovering.

Dr. W. W. Wixom, father of Mrs. Raymond Palmer, or "Emma Nevada," the famous soprano prima donna, died at San Francisco from paralysis on Thursday.

Jos. Mason, M. P. P., who had to retire from the house on Monday afternoon, was absent yesterday through illness. He was only present on Monday because of his earnest desire to forward the bill to aid quartz development.

Senator Thibeaudeau is justly indignant at the New York *Herald* having published a dispatch from Montreal to the effect that it was his daughter who eloped with an ex-policeman some days ago. The hon. gentleman states with a great deal of force that his two daughters are aged 6 and 9 years, and it is not likely that such notions would ever enter their youthful heads.

Mis Kate Felton, of San Francisco, daughter of the Hon. Charles N. Felton and niece of Mr. Edgar Marvin, of this city, was married on the 18th inst. to Mr. Wm. Elkins, a prominent merchant of Philadelphia. Miss Felton paid a visit to Victoria three years ago and will be remembered by many who then had the pleasure of meeting her. Mr. and Mrs. Elkins will arrive here to-morrow *en route* to Philadelphia over the C. P. R., and will leave on Friday morning's steamer.

Remove the Cause.

To remedy an evil the cause must be removed. It is by opening the clogged avenues of the system and thus removing the impure poisonous and worn out matter which is the cause of disease that B. B. B. is so uniformly successful in overcoming all diseases of the Stomach, Liver, Kidneys and Blood. tu-th-sat-dw

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, April 25.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

A Libel Case.

A writ of summons has been issued against the Vancouver *Herald* Printing & Publishing Company for a libel, published on March 13th, damages being laid at $5,000. The plaintiff is Mr. Wulffsohn, and he is represented by Mr. John Boultbee, barrister. The trial will probably be a very interesting one.

Supposed to be in Victoria.

Martin, the Tacoma murderer, whose escape from prison was reported, is said to be hiding in Victoria. The customs officer at Tacoma said he saw a man who resembled the murderer board the steamer and disappear. Since he learned of the escape he is sure that Martin was that man. The authorities will leave nothing unturned to find him as his execution was to have taken place on Friday. It is thought he arrived on the Alaskan Monday.

Police Court.

Mrs. Walker appeared before Judge Richards on a charge of frequenting a house of ill-fame. His honor discharged the woman with a caution.

Maggie Morrell, an unfortunate, was charged with keeping a house of ill-fame, but she was allowed to go at the request of Supt. Bloomfield. His Honor admiatered to her a severe reprimand.

An Indian, who is an old offender, was charged with being drunk and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

The Times "Challenge."

The *Times* issues a silly "challenge" to Mr. Dunsmuir as to the veracity of its report of that gentleman's remarks in the House on the School bill. We have every reason to believe that Mr. Dunsmuir is quite willing to allow the public, who know both parties, to judge between his word