TIMBER POLICY WAS LIBERAL'S

PREMIER AROUSED BY REMARK OF BREWSTER'S

Act in Which Extension of Tenure of Timber Licenses is Given

Legislative Press Gallery,
February 28.

The bill amending the Land Act, the chief object of which is to give perpetuity of tenure of timber licenses, was discussed in the House this afternoon and the second reading on a division. There were two or three speakers, one of whom was the Premier. Mr. McBride appeared to speak with some heat, as if some of the remarks of the member for Alberni had struck home, although nothing that gentleman had said could be considered as furnishing fuel for any heat, unless it was a reference to the game which was being played in this city lately, when, in a leading saloon, employees of the street railway were given a dollar and a drink for signing a document which purported to be an assignment of some pre-emption rights at Fort George, which none of them had ever any thought of taking up, but which apparently some benevolent persons who have the favor of the government will do as their assignees.

Aside from the debate on this and the bringing down of the railway bills nothing was done at the afternoon sitting.

Rev. Joseph McCoy read prayers at the opening of the House to-day.

Brewster Criticises.

H. C. Brewster, speaking in reply to the Commissioner of Lands on the second reading of the bill to amend the Land Act, said there was more in it than appeared at first sight. It contains things which, without the party whip which seemed to govern members opposite, would not be passed. The Conservative members voted thumbs down or thumbs up as the treasury bench gave the cue. The bill was padded out with sections which only changed the old section in a word or two. Some of them he had to read twice before he could find the change, another simply changed "shall" to "may," and as a whole the bill seemed to be hiding something. It might be that the hand of the Attorney-General was in it.

A great deal of credit had been taken by the Chief Commissioner on behalf of the government for the flourishing condition of the lumber industry, that owing to good government the province had had wonderful development, that but for the Conservative government the lumber industry would be dead. The government had very little right to claim any credit for such a flourishing industry as this. The lumber of the world was becoming depleted and to the great forest wealth of British Columbia the rest of the world was turning. Instead of glorying the government should feel ashamed that, either through failure to watch things in the lands department or in order to get in a big revenue, the government had to-day such an immense area of timber land alienated. There were over twelve million acres so alienated, and should the ordinary production of the mills continue there was sufficient now alienated to carry them on for one hundred or one hundred and fifty years. The action of the government had placed this in such a position that it was not a heritage of the people, but was in the hands of American speculators who would make future generations pay. This should be a subject on which the government ought to be censured.

The Macdonald Resolution.

In March, 1908, the late leader of the Liberal party, Mr. Macdonald, had moved a resolution in favor of the extension of tenure which was voted down by the government and its supporters. Opposition to that had been the policy of the government, until a change of heart came about, and it would be interesting to know what had brought this about. Rumor had it that the Premier, being anxious to obtain votes, and votes of lumbermen looking just as good as any, when he met the lumbermen at Revelstoke it was put up to him that if he wanted their support he had to bring in legislation following the lines of Mr. Macdonald's resolution. Hence the change of heart and the introduction of this legislation.

Section 85 of the act at present said that there "shall be reserved a strip of land one chain in width from high-water mark from all Crown lands extending to the sea for which application is made to pre-empt, lease or purchase." It was proposed to change "shall" to "may," the effect of which would be that communities by the sea would find themselves shut out from the sea. The evils of this were seen at Alberni, where the whole waterfront, with the exception of one street in New Alberni, was closed up.

Land Being Given Away.

Another thing found in the bill was a tardy and half-hearted adoption of the Liberal principle of compelling the clearing of limits containing agricultural land. It should be the object of the government to go further and make it possible for the man who wanted to get on the land to get there direct, and impossible for the speculator to grab all the agricultural lands in sight. It was said there had been millions of acres surveyed, but why should it be possible for the speculator to get these before the surveyors reached them? No unsurveyed land should be sold to a speculator, but should be held for the settler. In certain bar-rooms of Victoria were men being asked to sign a paper which purported to be an assignment of their rights in certain lands to be secured at Fort George and elsewhere. If the Premier knew of this, and he must, he should for all time to come stop this speculation. Make it as easy as possible for the actual settler, the man who wanted to work and make a living, to go on the land without having to pay the speculator a handsome profit on the amount the latter paid the government. The government should do as the Liberals would have done, hold the land for the settler and get settlers for the land. If the present method was to go on the people would find the land, timber, water, coal, everything they had, would be in the hands of trust speculators and future generations, instead of a heritage such as few countries could hand down to those coming after, would have nothing but a province plucked of its assets.

Premier's Reply.

Premier McBride disclaimed any following of the Liberal party in the decision to extend the tenure. The matter had first come up when R. F. Green was chief commissioner, and objection was made that bankers did not find timber licenses a tangible asset on which to lend money. There was an extension made to twenty-one years, but deputations of loggers and millmen still continued to press on the government that the banks did not yet look on their licenses with favor. The government wanted time and investigation before it would accede to these requests and appointed a commission, on whose advise it was now proposing an extension of the tenure of licenses. When the commission made a final report right and just rentals and royalties on an industry in which the government was practically in co-partnership with the holders would follow. As to the Liberal policy, he did not know until the statement of their election platform what it was.

Dealing with the land question the premier contended that "speculators" had to pay the price the government charged for lands and that this brought in a large revenue to the province. There was a great deal of clap-trap talked about the genuine settler, he said, and he wanted to know who anyone was that he should set himself up in judgment on who was genuine settler and who speculator. Personally, he knew no community without men who were willing to sell for a turn-over; we were all speculators more or less. The man who settled in British Columbia had all the advantages he could wish for and he gave little or nothing for them. He had nothing to complain of. There was more provision made for him by the British Columbia government than by any other government in Canada. There were large areas of land open to him in the north, in the Peace River block, in the Queen Charlotte Islands and elsewhere throughout the province.

Michael Manson (Comox), urged that lands such as beaver meadows, swamps and such like on which heavy timber did not grow, the chief commissioner should have power to let the timber licensees relinquish. This would be more workable than it was at present. In the case of logged-off lands and similar lands available for agricultural purposes the commissioner should have the same power. The log-scaling provisions ought to be included as part of this bill. There was much complaint of unfairness as the result of scaling under the British Columbia log-scale, giving less than under the old Scribner scale. A log twenty-two inches in diameter gave practically the same contents by both scales. Logs less than 22 inches gave a little more under the British Columbia scale, but logs larger than 22 inches gave very much less. In a forty-foot log 36 inches in diameter there was a disadvantage of 294 feet under the British Columbia scale, when 42 inches in diameter 487 feet and when 60 inches the disadvantage was 1,325 feet. It was to be hoped the government would attend to this while this bill was before the House.

Parker Williams (Newcastle), pointed to the fact that the British Columbia Gazette showed notices by the hundred predominantly in one or other of four names, acting as agents for men, often with unpronounceable names, from distant parts.

A division was demanded on the second reading by the Socialists. Mr. Brewster, naturally, voted with the government, in support of the policy which it has borrowed from the Liberal party. Mr. Jardine, who voted for the Macdonald resolution on March 7, 1908, as well as Mr. Brewster, voted with the two Socialist members against the bill.

Land Registry Act.

An act amending the Land Registry act was considered in committee of the whole, J. A. Fraser (Cariboo) in the chair. One section provides that a municipality can charge a fee of $2 for each lot for the registration of subdivisions. Another section gives city councils the right to refuse to approve of plans because of insufficient provision for lanes. A section added by the attorney-general prohibits the registry of any title derived from the King in the right of Canada to foreshore or tidal land, land under the sea or land which is or has been part of an Indian reserve, without the sanction of the lieut.-governor in council.

The attorney-general brought down a bill by message repealing the Commercial Travellers' License Act of 1907, as the subject matter of it is dealt with in the new liquor act.

FRIENDLY HELP.

Assistance Given to Those in Need by Local Society.

The monthly meeting of the Friendly Help Society was held in their rooms at the Market building on Tuesday. The usual number of needy cases were reported and their assistance considered. It was decided to hold the annual meeting of the society on the 15th inst at 2:30 p. m., in the committee room of the city hall if it is available on that day. A representative from the Benevolent Society and one from the W. C. T. U. mission will be asked to be present to confer with the ladies re their charitable work.

Clothing of all descriptions but especially men's garments are urgently needed. Several cases were turned over to the society by the mayor as he felt that they would be investigated and possibly more judiciously assisted than if left to the city to manage solely. The following are the donations for the month: Cash, A Friend, Mrs. H. J. Scott, Mr. Edwin Johnson, The City; cards, Miss M. R. Lawson, Mrs. Gill; clothing, Mrs. J. A. Woods, Mrs. Wm. Grahame, Miss Bannister, A Friend; trunk of clothing, A Friend.

NAVAL DEBATE.

E. N. Lewis, Conservative, Opposed to Policies of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and R. L. Borden.

Ottawa, March 1.—In resuming the naval debate in the Commons this afternoon, E. N. Lewis, Conservative, West Huron, protested against the tendency of some politicians in the country to foam at the mouth over the question of loyalty to the mother land. He believed that both parties were loyal and it was foolish to try to make out otherwise. He believed that Germany's real object in rushing a naval programme was not to attack Britain, but to forestall the United States in getting a foothold for its surplus millions of population in South America. He was opposed to any programme of large expenditures on either military or naval service in Canada, and moved that the proper naval policy for this country was not a gift of Dreadnoughts to Britain or the construction of new Canadian war vessels, but providing a constant recruiting ground for the personnel of the Imperial navy. It was not ships but men that Britain needed, consequently he was opposed both to the policy of his leader, Mr. Borden, and also to the policy of the government. Great Britain would lend half a dozen of her undermanned warships to Canada at any time to be used for training purposes, and thus a great naval reserve could be built up in this country.

BRANCH BANK IN VICTORIA WEST

Royal Bank of Canada Decides to Open on Esquimalt Road

Another branch bank is being established at once in the suburbs of Victoria. The Royal Bank of Canada has rented the building at the corner of Chatham street and Esquimalt road, opposite the Silver Spring brewery, will take possession in a few days and a day or two later will be open for business.

Superintendent Crosby is at present in the city, and he in company with Manager Veitch, of the local bank, have been looking over the ground in the suburbs. The result of their investigations has been the securing of the site at Victoria West.

Since the lead set a week or two ago by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in securing a site for a branch bank on Douglas street, there have been many speculations as to the next move that would be made by other banks. Victoria West being more or less cut off from the business part of the city is looked upon as a very suitable place for a bank, and the move will certainly be welcomed by the residents in that district. It is also likely to have a stimulating effect on business in that district, especially on the values of realty.

The fact that bank managers are realizing that the city is bound to spread out in every direction is a healthy sign.

ESPLANADE QUESTION ON BELLEVILLE STREET

City Must Pay Adjacent Property Owners One-Half Proceeds of Sale

The future disposition of the waterlots owned by the city on Belleville street, between Raymond's wharf and the B. C. Paint Works, was decided at Monday's meeting of the city council. The attempt on the part of the city to get authority to sell the lots without regard to the fact that they were originally deeded to the corporation for esplanade purposes failed, the government insisting that owners of property on the other side of the street had certain rights which must be protected.

Ald. Raymond, reporting on behalf of the special committee which interviewed the government, said Premier McBride took the position that the claims of the private property owners on the south side of Belleville street had to be considered. These owners objected to the government consenting to the city being relieved of its responsibility to maintain the waterlots as an esplanade without compensation. They contended that their property had been purchased with the idea of the existence in front of it of an open space, and that it will suffer depreciation in value should the waterlots be sold and devoted to private purposes.

As a way out of the difficulty the government suggested that the city may obtain possession of the lots free of any responsibility to maintain an esplanade, and sell the same, providing half of the money obtained as proceeds shall be given to the owners on the other side of the street, and the balance devoted to park purposes by the corporation.

This decision on the part of the government was communicated to the council last evening and after some little debate it was accepted.

—A committee consisting of Mrs. Butler (president), Mrs. Angus, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Pottinger and the Misses Florence have issued cards of invitation for a dinner and dance to take place in the Broad street hall on March the 8th. Any lady or gentleman who has been attending the dances given by the Daughters of Scotland may receive a card from any of the committee, if they have not already received one.

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—The Western Union Telegraph Company has been forced to vacate the premises occupied on Government street. In the meantime they are located on Fort street in what was the Cozy Corner tea rooms in the rear of Pemberton & Son's present real estate office. The Western Union will later occupy the office to be vacated by Pemberton & Son.

SETTLEMENT AGAIN IN SIGHT

OAK BAY AND CITY MAY COME TO TERMS

Committee of Legislature Gives Final Opportunity To-day

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

A settlement seems to be in sight at last of the vexed question of the supply of water to the municipality of Oak Bay. After listening to the merits of both sides of the question for several sittings and giving a final chance to the municipalities to come together in an amicable agreement, the private bills committee this morning announced its decision on the matter. This is contained in the following resolution drawn up in private consultation and accepted by the parties afterwards:

"That section 2 and that paragraph of section 3 affecting the waterworks question, and section 4 of the bill be struck out, providing that the city produces to the committee by noon on March 3rd, 1910, a resolution of the municipal council of the city of Victoria, duly authenticated, providing for an adequate supply of water to Oak Bay municipality, for a period of two years from the 1st of April, 1910, at a maximum price of ten cents per thousand gallons, after which period a further supply for a price for each year which shall be decided by the board of commissioners under the Water Act, at a price 2½ cents per thousand gallons over actual wholesale cost, but in no event to exceed ten cents per thousand gallons."

The city was represented by Mayor Morley, City Barrister Taylor, Acting City Solicitor Mann and Water Commissioner Raymur. For Oak Bay there were in attendance E. V. Bodwell, K. C., H. G. Lawson, W. E. Oliver, Councillor Sproule and J. S. Floyd.

Mr. Bodwell explained that the latest agreement, accepted by the city, had been rejected by the council of Oak Bay on Saturday evening. They objected to it in several particulars. The council had an offer of water from the Esquimalt company at a price of six cents per thousand gallons.

"It seems to be written in the book of fate that Victoria should never do the right thing in this matter," said Mr. Bodwell. "There is no reason why Oak Bay should be tied down by the mistakes and repetitions of mistakes which the city has made in water matters for many years, by the perpetual blundering which has gone on."

Going into the latest agreement, counsel said it was not nearly as satisfactory as the one formerly made, and Oak Bay declined to have anything to do with it, especially in view of the very favorable offer which the municipality had from the Esquimalt company. There were only two sources of supply for the city outside of Elk lake. If the city took the Esquimalt company this bill would not affect them, as they would have that extended market for water, with the mains and everything there ready. But if Sooke was decided on it was ridiculous to say that Oak Bay should tie itself to pay 2½c a thousand gallons above a cost which no one now could estimate. Another feature of the later agreement was in regard to the furnishing of water from a source other than Elk lake. If the city did not purchase the Esquimalt company, the best that could happen Oak Bay was that in five or seven years it might get a supply different from Elk lake. Therefore Oak Bay did not desire to accept the city's offer when it could get an adequate supply of much better water before December next for four cents a thousand less than the city proposed to charge them. Victoria wanted Oak Bay to share the burdens without any voice in how they were incurred; no matter how ruinously expensive the system might be which the city would put in, Oak Bay was to be dragged in to bear the burden of its bungling.

Mr. Taylor declared the whole question to be one of invasion of the territory of a municipality by a private company. This application was really a plan by which the Esquimalt company would invade territory that property belonged to Victoria; it was a roundabout, underhand process to secure this result, using Oak Bay as a pawn. Mr. Bodwell had just admitted that the Esquimalt company might own the pipe line. The Oak Bay representatives had got very angry the other day when he suggested that this was a plan. Victoria had made the territory of Oak Bay which it was now proposed to let a private corporation invade. Not only would the city lose a certain market for water, but it would find itself seriously hampered when it sought the money markets in order to finance a water extension scheme.

Everybody would admit that occasionally in carrying out municipal works there was not the same economy as in private works, but outside that Elk lake, the best available source of water in the past, had been utilized in a practical manner.

The facts in regard to the Sooke proposition had been obscured, Mr. Taylor declared, figures in an undigested form had been thrown at the public, and they had been misled and kept in ignorance and darkness. It was not true, as Mr. Bodwell stated, that no one knew what the approximate cost of going to Sooke would be. Levels had been taken, estimates made, and it was known that there was available a supply of 23,000,000 gallons daily, which might be extensively augmented, probably quadrupled, by throwing some of the waters of the upper Leach river into it. Goldstream contained no water in summer, and it was only by constructing artificial reservoirs that a flow could be secured. There was no dispute as to the cost of a pipe line. For the 27 miles to Sooke it would cost $1,000,000 an average of $40,000 a mile, and to Goldstream 12 miles would cost $480,000, in addition to a million or so for the expropriation of the company's undertaking. The tunnel plan, if adopted, was the only one which would take time, and this was being used to scare people from the Sooke scheme, which to-day was a cheaper proposition than Goldstream, although the citizens did not know it.

Mayor Morley explained that it was solely on account of a misunderstanding between the council of last year and the water commissioner that Oak Bay was before the committee on this point. The council last year asked the water commissioner what the cost of water was. The water commissioner naturally told them fourteen cents, meaning by that at their own door. He was not supposed to know what the policy of the council was, and the aldermen quoted 18 cents, thinking 14 cents was the wholesale price. If the council had looked into the matter as carefully as the new council had it would have made the wholesale price 10 cents or 12 cents instead of 18 cents. The old element in the council was still seized of the old error, and there had not been time to get this out of their head. If Victoria failed to give water at a fair price or refused to come to reasonable terms Oak Bay would be entitled to seek water from any other source. The wholesale price of water was easily arrived at. The capitalization on waterworks account how was $678,000, and this would be increased probably to three million dollars. The cost of water to-day was 1½ cents per thousand gallons; with the expenditure on the new system the actual net cost wholesale would be 1½ cents per thousand. A great deal was said by Mr. Bodwell as to placing burdens on Oak Bay. As a matter of fact it would benefit proportionately with the city, in the large saving possible under a new system by the annual fixing of rates at 2½ cents over cost. By the time Oak Bay consumed one million gallons the city would need fifty millions, on the present proportionate rate of increase. Under the last agreement drafted Oak Bay would benefit greatly by the increase in consumption and reduction in cost. The city was treating the municipality most liberally, meeting them on better terms than the first agreement, and he was sure the council would not stand in the way of bettering the agreement at any point.

His worship, later, referring to Mr. Bodwell's statement of the price offered by the Esquimalt company, said it was 6 cents at the Arm.

"No, at our bounds," said Mr. Bodwell.

"Then that is a change," replied his worship, "because it was explained to us, and that is where you are unfair to the council. It was explained to us that it was 6 cents at the Arm and it was admitted by Mr. Oliver that it would cost them practically 9 cents at the boundary of Oak Bay. What has taken place is that the Esquimalt company is moving heaven and earth, offering to give water at less than cost and all that, since these negotiations have been under way. Another point where Mr. Bodwell is not fair is in regard to the cost of new works. Victoria would in any event only borrow as it needed the money for the work in progress, and Oak Bay would not be called on to pay any of the charges until water was being supplied it from the new source. I think we are giving them an exceptionally liberal deal."

Mr. Taylor offered to amend the agreement in any reasonable way, if Oak Bay would say what it wanted, and have this adopted by council at a special meeting and a resolution under seal submitted to-morrow morning.

Mr. Bodwell asked for a ten-cent. rate for two years, adjustments at 2½ cents advance on cost price but never to exceed ten cents, and a six-cent rate when the new supply is obtained.

The city's representatives were agreeable to the first two particulars but not to fix a price for the new supply in advance.

Mayor Morley said this was forcing the city to a gilt-edged proposition, such as the Esquimalt Co. was offering for special reasons of its own.

N. F. Mackey (Kaslo), asked what rate the company had offered Victoria.

"Four cents," replied Mr. Bodwell.

Mayor Morley said the last proposition was 6 cents at the arm on certain stipulations, and if the city took one gallon over any even million it had to pay for a whole million gallons.

After the committee had deliberated it received the municipal representatives again and both sides agreed to the decision.

H. B. Thompson pointed out to Oak Bay that the committee were satisfied that Victoria was making an honest endeavor to settle its water problem, now that a committee of citizens was at work on it in conjunction with the council, and that no doubt within less time than two years a settlement would be reached.

Probably a special meeting of the the city council will be held to-morrow afternoon to pass the necessary resolution.

FAREWELL DINNER TO A. G. SNELLING

Informal Banquet Was Given Monday Evening by His Friends

To mark the leave-taking of the secretary-manager, A. G. Snelling, the members of the Victoria Creamery and Milk Supply Co., Ltd., gave an informal dinner at the Broad Street hall, last evening and the proceedings were very interesting. There were about forty of the members and their friends present.

J. Nicholson, reeve of South Saanich, occupied the chair and among the speakers were W. F. Loveland, Dr. S. F. Tolmie, veterinary inspector for the Dominion government; J. R. Carmichael, R. L. Hodson, H. Puckle, A. Reid, J. Bull, T. Redding, W. C. Quick, A. H. Peatt, A. G. Snelling, T. G. Elliott and F. C. Quick. The catering was in the hands of the I. X. L. Confectionery Company, and was in every sense satisfactory.

Responding to the toast, "The Provincial Government," proposed by Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Hodson, live stock commissioner, said it was the desire of the government to assist the farmer in every way possible to the end that the best article might be produced.

C. P. R. EARNINGS.

Montreal, March 1.—C. P. R. earnings for January were $6,104,420; expenses, $4,787,830.

LECTURED ON GLADSTONE.

Interesting Address Given by Rev. S. J. Thompson in Centennial Church.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Centennial church gave their friends a treat when they made arrangements for the lecture that was given Monday night by the Rev. S. J. Thompson on "Gladstone, the Christian Statesman." Mr. Thompson's well known ability as a public speaker and his ready Irish wit enables him to entertain as well as edify an audience, and there was not a dry moment in the lecture given last night. In spite of the very unpleasant weather there was a good-sized audience and the applause which greeted the lecturer showed that the audience appreciated the effort.

The life of the Grand Old Man of England was well told and several interesting anecdotes enlivened the dry facts. Gladstone's attitude towards Christianity, and his right to the title, "The Christian Statesman," were brought prominently forward.

The Hon. Price Ellison presided and in a happy speech introduced Mr. Thompson. A short programme of choice English patriotic songs was rendered during the evening, among those taking part being Mrs. D. C. Reid, who sang "Home, Sweet Home" in a most delightful manner, and Messrs. Brown and Waddington. Mr. Ellison made an ideal chairman. At the close of the programme the ladies served refreshments and nearly all remained for the social half hour. The customary vote of thanks to the lecturer and chairman were given most heartily.

WANT PROTECTION FOR SMALL CONTRACTORS

Fault Found With Agreement Made by Premier With Mackenzie & Mann

The McBride government is being severely criticised by railway men for not including in their railway bill or the agreement with the Canadian Northern railway some protection for the sub-contractors and stationmen who do the actual work on the railway construction. According to the terms of the agreement the government will hand over the subsidy money to the company on the work being passed by the engineer. This, on the face of it, seems fair enough, but to those who understand the methods used in constructing railways it does not go far enough.

In building railways according to modern methods the work is let to a contractor who sublets it in small sections varying from one to five or ten miles. This sub-contractor again lets to stationmen, contracts for making rock cuts, or other small amounts of work. It is claimed that if these stationmen are not protected by the government there are all sorts of extra charges made against them, so that in a great many cases they find themselves hopelessly in debt when the work is finished. The result of this is that the sub-contractors get the work done much cheaper than they would if the stationmen were fairly treated. The contractors get rich at the expense of the sub-contractors' stationmen, and the government have to pay all the bills.

The engineer in passing work takes no account of how the results are obtained. The duty of the government is to call for duplicates of the estimates of all the sub-contractors and stationmen and that these shall be submitted to the engineer before the work is passed.

The matter of the government dealing with the Canadian Northern Pacific Company rather than the Canadian Northern has also come in for its need of criticism. The method it is claimed is very complicated and is scarcely what was expected considering the promises made at election time.

TRYING TO AVERT GENERAL STRIKE

Effort Being Made to Arrange for Arbitration at Philadelphia

Philadelphia, Pa., March 1.—Powerful influences are working to-day to avert a walkout of thousands of union labor men and women here. The situation remains unchanged, both sides in the street car strike maintaining a fixed attitude and announcing that they will not recede.

The company still refuses to submit its contentions to arbitration. Great pressure, however, is being brought to bear upon the corporation, and there is a growing belief that the company will consent to arbitration at the last moment.

All the newspapers of Philadelphia have joined in urging both sides to make concessions in the interest of peace. The demand is becoming imperative and all classes are joining in the movement to urge the city council to interfere if necessary to prevent financial loss, misery and possible bloodshed and riot.

ALDEN CHARTERED.

Andrew Weir & Co. Fix Norwegian Steamer for Australian Mail Line.

The Norwegian steamer Alden has been chartered by Waterhouse & Company for one voyage in the Australian Mail line, at 3 shillings a ton dead weight, delivery and redelivery Comox, B. C. The Alden is a vessel of 2,340 tons net register and is en route from Baltimore to Guaymas and Vancouver, B. C., being last reported from Coronel, January 25th. The chartering of the Alden was made necessary by the coal strike in Australia tying up the regular steamers of the mail line, the Century, Hyndford, Katanga and Tymeric being all laid up in Australia owing to the shortage of fuel consequent to the inactivity of the mines there.

INAUGURATING NEW SERVICE

STEAMER PETRIANA LEAVES TO-NIGHT

Manager Galt Says Freighter Will Call at This Port Fortnightly

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The Northern Steamship Company's recently purchased freighter, the Petriana, arrived here this morning from Vancouver to inaugurate the new service to Prince Rupert and Stewart. She will leave to-night after loading a quantity of cargo at this port, most of it bound to the new town of Stewart.

John Galt, the manager of the Northern Steamship Company, and formerly the assistant superintendent of the Union Steamship Company, came over on the steamer and is looking after the business end here to-day. He said it was the intention of his company to run the Petriana to this port fortnightly, going as far north as Stewart, but calling at all the principal ports along the route. He expects that they will do a large business with this port.

At present the Petriana has no passenger accommodation, but Mr. Galt stated that it was very probable that they would build on a few cabins, making it possible to carry a limited number of passengers. The passenger business will be looked after, however, by the Cetriana, which is expected here about the 1st of April. This steamer is a regular passenger boat, but she will run only from Vancouver, making three trips a month to Stewart, Prince Rupert and way ports.

The Petriana is a very useful freighter, with unusually large hatches. Some improvements will be made in the matter of extra booms, and then she will be able to handle anything which offers. She can carry a thousand tons dead weight, and will undoubtedly prove an important addition to the freighting craft on this coast. She is commanded by Capt. Dick, the well known pilot of the steamer Camosun. Her purser is Bert Robson, well known locally, as well as in shipping circles, as the purser on the steamer Rupert City. It is understood, however, that when the Cetriana arrives he will remove to that vessel to serve in a similar capacity.

SMALL HOUSES ARE MUCH IN DEMAND

Good Many Sales of This Class of Property Made Yesterday

There is a constantly increasing demand for houses. The weather during the last week or more has not been at all suitable for doing much realty business, but yet sales are being made. One agent yesterday afternoon said that he had not been out of the office yet had made several sales. Medium-sized houses are the properties which changed hands yesterday. A few of them are mentioned below, but many of the brokers simply say that most of their business was in houses.

Yesterday the Island Investment Company sold two houses, one on Princess avenue and the other on Government street. They also sold a house on Saturday, that one being on Queen's avenue.

The North West Real Estate Company report having sold a small house on Tennyson road for $1,000; a house and an acre of land at the north end of Douglas street just outside the city limits for $3,200; and a lot on Camosun street in the neighborhood of the firehall for $1,000.

Currie & Power have sold a number of lots on Hillside avenue. They say that they find there is a good demand for properties in that direction.

Aaysmith & Company are selling a number of lots in their Brighton addition. This property has not been on the market long and is going off well.

Herbert Cuthbert & Company report that they are still selling the golf links park sub-division, three lots having been recently disposed of.

Navy news has had rather a stimulating effect on the Esquimalt properties. A number of sales have been made in that direction and others are on the tapis, expecting to be closed.

SLOOPS AT ESQUIMALT MADE POOR SHOWING

Gunnery Results Show Up Worse Than for Previous Year

A special to the Times from London says:

The return of the results of the heavy gunlayers' tests last year, just published by the Admiralty, show that the sloops Shearwater and Algerine did poorly in the matter of gunnery. The Algerine made an average of 36.86 points per gun and the Shearwater made only 34.6 points. The Algerine fired 31 rounds from her 4-inch quick-firers and scored 12 hits, of which five were made by Petty Officer J. Singer, whilst the Shearwater out of 49 rounds only made 14 hits, her best shot being Able Seaman Bourne. Returns are given from 120 ships, and on this list the Algerine stands eighty-third and the Shearwater the one hundred and fourth.

The previous year both ships made much better shooting in the same tests, the Algerine making a score of 42.5 points per gun, and was fifty-eighth on a list of 122 ships, and the Shearwater an average of 39.23 points per gun, which gave her the seventy-second place in the list.