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BRITISH COLUMBIA QUESTIONS IN DOMINION HOUSE.

We do not know that the question of better terms is disturbing the sleep of many people of British Columbia at the present time. Our impression is that the matter was knocked out of court by a return presented to the Dominion House of Commons proving that the figures compiled under the direction of G. H. Cowan, M. P. for Vancouver, who claims the honor of being the father of the idea, were incorrect by a considerable number of millions of dollars, and that instead of the province having contributed more to the revenues of the Dominion than it had expended in the province, the balance was in the other way to the extent of about five million dollars. That is our recollection of the matter, speaking from memory. Furthermore, no one knows who was the author of Mr. Cowan's tables, whereas the statement laid before Parliament was prepared by the Auditor General of Canada, was compiled from the public accounts, and no one, not even Mr. Cowan or Mr. Taylor, the member for New Westminster, or Mr. Barnard, now the only guardians of the better terms baby, has ventured to dispute the accuracy of the return.

But it appears our Tory friends cannot exist politically without raising sectional issues in some form or other. They have been nursing such cries ever since the black, dismal year 1896, which marked the declension of their political fortunes to the lowest ebb. And, although efforts have been continuously made to set Ontario against Quebec and Quebec against Ontario and British Columbia against the rest of the Dominion, there is yet no sign of the tide turning. The object of the Tory contingent which at present represents British Columbia in the House of Commons during a recent debate on the estimates was to show that this province has been discriminated against in the appropriations as compared with eastern sections of the country. The petty criticisms of Mr. Barnard drew from the Minister of Public Works the pertinent and unassailable assertion: "I venture to say that as much or more has been done in British Columbia as in any other province of Canada. But the hon. gentleman does not recognize that, and he seems to be wanting all the time to put forward the allegation that we are discriminating against British Columbia. As a matter of fact we have done more of this kind of work (construction of public buildings and improvements to navigation) in British Columbia than in any other province of Canada."

Then Mr. Cowan got his finger in the pie, and the Colonist undertakes to quote what Mr. Templeman had to say in reply to the Vancouver member's characteristic better terms ebullition, but our contemporary was very careful not to print the pertinent portion of the remarks of the Minister. Mr. Templeman said: "I venture to state that my hon. friend from Vancouver is not stating the facts with regard to the proportion of expenditure in British Columbia as compared with the other provinces in the Dominion. My hon. friend, I believe, claims to be the father of the famous better terms proposition of the British Columbia government, and the fallacy of the figures presented in the tabulated statement he has caused to be prepared was absolutely proven by the return brought down to this House a few years ago. . . . The hon. member is making general statements to the House and is not producing any proof whatever to substantiate what he says. He simply says that the appropriations for expenditure in British Columbia are as one to eight in the rest of the Dominion, and he claims that the contribution to the revenue by the province of British Columbia is much larger than the contribution of other provinces. Well, that is a very large question, and the hon. gentleman can argue almost anything he likes from that statement because it is hard to prove a statement, of that kind. I do not think it is so myself, and I say so frankly and fearlessly after a very long investigation into the question. I do think that the province of British Columbia is a very large contributor to the revenues of the Dominion, but that is aside from the issue altogether. Hon. gentlemen opposite have said that public works are not being carried on in the province of British Columbia by this government, but I would like to know what demands made upon this government for public works have been refused. What demands have this year been made on the government for necessary public works in that province which have been refused? To my knowledge, I know of none. . . . The great improvement which the

port of Vancouver requires is to widen and deepen the narrows, and I believe it is the intention of the Minister of Public Works to buy a dredge for that work. In the last two or three years one of the finest public buildings in Canada has been put up in Vancouver for a postoffice and custom house, and we have recently bought a tract of ground for an examining warehouse in connection with the custom house. We have provided all the accommodation in the way of public buildings that is necessary for the great city of Vancouver, and I am proud to say that it is a great city. It is all very well for my hon. friends to make statements in a general way, but they cannot substantiate them. I do not know what more we could do in the city of Vancouver. The deepening of the Fraser River from its mouth up to above Westport is a very important work on which this government has already spent half a million dollars, and which it will take years to complete. In the city of Victoria we have been spending at least ten times as much money as did the former government, and in this year's estimates, there is twice the sum appropriated last year for the purpose of deepening some points in the harbor in order to accommodate the increase in shipping. It is all very well for my hon. friend to raise the miserable old issue, raised in general elections in British Columbia, of the alleged antagonism of this government to the best interests of British Columbia. That charge is a false one, and I challenge my hon. friend to make it good."

The accuracy of Mr. Cowan's statements having been denied, and having been disproved already, he demanded an inquiry, the absurdity of which demand was demonstrated by the Finance Minister in the following statement:

"The proposition is too preposterous and ridiculous to entertain it for a moment. If British Columbia has any claim to any public works of the same class as is provided in any other part of Canada, that claim will receive consideration; but this pretence that the province pays more than another is one of the ridiculous things we are apt to hear in this parliament. Why, my hon. friend from East Grey will remember when the province of Ontario was troubled with the conviction that it was the milch cow of the Dominion and had to pay for all the other provinces. We have heard Montreal plead the immense contribution it makes to the Dominion treasury because the imports for the West pass through it and the duties are there collected. But these duties are in reality paid by the people further west who consume the bulk of these imports. The same remark applies to Halifax and other ports of entry, so that no statement which could be prepared on the basis of duties collected at the different ports could give a correct idea of the contribution to these duties by different sections of the country. The goods landed at one port may be consumed a thousand miles away, and it is the consumer a thousand miles distant who pays the tax, and not the importer at Halifax. St. John, Vancouver, Montreal or Quebec. No calculation that can be made on this subject can possibly be absolutely correct, but must be a matter of conjecture. It would be ridiculous to have an inquiry into a matter of this sort; but if British Columbia requires a public work of the same class as is provided by the Dominion in other provinces, and which is necessary and useful for the development of trade, then let that claim be brought forward, and if it is not considered, then, and not until then, will British Columbia have a grievance."

MAGOWAN'S FOLLY.

When the electors of Vancouver returned Mr. A. H. B. Macgowan as their member, they must have labored under a misapprehension. They surely must have thought they were sending their representative to an institution in New Westminster, not to a legislative chamber in Victoria where, protected by privilege, he could safely vent his spleen and venom in most unheeded, most outrageous, terms upon the heads of the Judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia. Not that we think the gentlemen so foolishly, so bitterly and so unreasonably assailed behind the barriers of privilege yesterday would have been moved to take the slightest notice of the ravings of this apparently irresponsible individual had they been spluttered forth outside of the walls of the legislature. The mentally unbalanced have been protected for ages and by universal assent against the consequences of their own folly—until folly takes the form of violence. Mr. Macgowan's case does not call for the application of a strait jacket yet, but a muzzle might be called into service, if only for the sake of the good name of the legislative assembly.

It is satisfactory to note that the extraordinary outburst of the member for Vancouver was publicly received with condemnation and privately with execration. Not a member of the House had a word to say in condemnation of his remarks, far less in support of them. On the contrary, the effect was to draw forth from all sides of the assembly expressions of admiration for the talents of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of absolute confidence in their integrity. The tribute of Mr. Hawthornthwaite was especially noteworthy as proving that the Bench is one of the "capitalistic institutions" in which the Socialists have implicit confidence.

If it were worth while, the fact could probably be shown that there is something behind the attempt of the ungovernable member of the third bench for Vancouver to bully the Bench

of the Supreme Court. There generally is something behind Macgowan's breaks. He has been known to breathe out threatnings and slaughter against the government he now so slavishly supports, but the Premier could always take all the braggadocio and bluster out of him with a single flourish of the party lash.

A. PUBLIC DUTY CONSCIENTIOUSLY DISCHARGED.

The bills embodying the railway policy of the McBride government have passed their second reading after a very short discussion considering the momentous character of their provisions. The opposition has discharged its full duty in calling public attention to the enormous liability the province will find itself confronted with in the course of a few years. The able speech last evening of Mr. Brewster, the solitary Liberal in the House, covered the ground of obvious criticism most thoroughly. But it is apparently quite futile to attempt to reason with the government and its overwhelming following. The bills will be rushed through committee with no amendments and passed into law, prorogation following as speedily as possible. The disability under which the province has placed itself by electing such a weak opposition numerically will be more fully demonstrated when the ultimate effects of the so-called railway policy become apparent. The speech of the Premier revealed much that had previously been hidden of the weaknesses of the contract, proving that the railway company has either completely hoodwinked the government or that the government had intentionally played into the company's hands. Nearly every arrangement into which the province has entered in the past with railway companies has been proven by experience to be indefensible and inimical to the public interests. The history of such transactions and the actual working of them out in public experience more than demonstrate the soundness of the position we take, the contract with the Canadian Northern Railway Company is probably the most vicious of them all. But the conscience of the opposition is clear. It can now do nothing but wait for time to vindicate its attitude.

BODIES OF TWENTY.

VICTIMS RECOVERED

(Continued from page 1.)

Came Without Warning.
The Revelstoke Mail-Herald of Saturday says: The awful calamity that has thrown Revelstoke into a state of consternation is the worst in the history of this division, and is appalling in its details and the suddenness of the utter annihilation of strong men engaged in the duty of their calling. It appears that a work train was snowed out and rotary were working at a deep snow slide at about midnight, Friday night in the vicinity of shed 47, which is the new division on the summit of Rogers Pass. The slide in question was one of the first for many years at that point, and the snow plough outfit in charge of R. J. Buckley was being employed in clearing away the obstruction. Snow had been falling steadily for several days on the higher slopes of the mountains, but none had fallen on the lower altitudes so that no further danger of a recurrence of the slides was anticipated as the tops of the hills would not be affected by the thaw. While engaged at the task of clearing the track the several gangs of men were all at work at various points of the slide. Without any warning an enormous mass of snow and ice suddenly broke and came down the hill above, and gathering impetus as it swept down the slopes, struck the work train with tremendous force, filling the cutting with thousands of tons of ice and snow, and burying the entire crew under about 30 feet of debris.

So sudden was the disaster that the men had no time to make for safety, and died an awful death, being crushed by the mass of ice that thundered down upon them and overwhelmed by the avalanche that filled the cutting where they were working. The train was completely buried and no trace of the awful calamity could be seen except a few broken tracks and discolored mounds where the men were buried alive.

The slide stretched for over 600 feet long, and in places was over 30 feet deep. Over 600 feet of the shed was torn away and added to the destruction, the massive timber being splintered to match wood. One of the survivors hastened to Glacier with the news which was wired into Revelstoke. On receipt of the tidings of the awful calamity the C. P. R. officials at once repaired wrecking trains with relief crews and called for volunteers to help in the task of digging out the bodies.

The response was noble on the part of all who were called, and in a short space of time a large number of men with shovels assembled at the depot, with medical men, druggists and others when a train was quickly made up and dispatched to the scene of the disaster.

Conductor Buckley was the first to be rescued by those who arrived on the scene soon after the disaster, and was conveyed to Glacier, only a short distance away, but died before he reached there.

W. Phillips was found beside his engine being badly crushed by solid ice.

MANCHURIAN RAILWAYS.

Tokio, March 4.—United States Ambassador O'Brien has received from the foreign office an acknowledgment of the state department's assurances, friendly and disinterested motives, and no ulterior design in the Manchurian proposal for the neutralization of the railways.

BITTER ATTACK MADE ON JUDGE

VANCOUVER MEMBER HEATED IN HIS REMARKS

Premier and Attorney-General Do Not Relish Macgowan's Action

Legislative Press Gallery, March 4th.

The feature of the first morning sitting of the House, held to-day, was an attack upon one of the members of the Supreme Court of British Columbia by A. H. B. Macgowan, third member for Vancouver. The attack was couched in very bitter terms and the hon. gentleman spoke with a deal of heat. Many Conservatives resent it in speaking of and was not at all relished by the leaders of the government, to judge from their faces while it was being delivered.

The judge who was aimed at, although only named once in an indirect fashion but several times pointed out by intimation, is Mr. Justice Clement. Some occurrence which is said to have happened in the Yukon, while his lordship was legal adviser to the territorial council, was the foundation for Mr. Macgowan's attack and insinuations of wrongdoing.

A disclaimer of any personal feeling, and a denial of the suggestion that he had ever had a case before the judge he had in mind, was made at the outset of Mr. Macgowan's speech in support of his motion to add the following section to the Supreme Court act:

"Provided, however, that no person shall be eligible for the position of Judge of said court, or sit in judgment on any case, who has been tried and convicted of a crime, or who has been charged and not absolutely exonerated of such charge, or against whom the slightest suspicion of wrongdoing remains."

He had never had a case before the Supreme court, he said, and if justice was meted out there as he had seen it meted out he hoped he would go to humanity's last court before he went to the Supreme court. He rose in the interests of his political and other friends, he added, "whom this man has treated in a most unbecoming manner."

The amendment was designed to be a terror to evil-doers and a satisfaction to those who did well. Coke upon Lyttelton was quoted as to the qualifications which should be considered in the appointment of judges, and the B. C. Supreme Court bench was then described as including "two lunatics, one fool and one scoundrel and fugitive from justice."

The elegant figures of a beach-comber waiting to rob a poor deal "floater," and of a ghoul prowling around the morgue to steal the things from the fingers of the dead, were applied to the judge in question, and later on a charge was made on the authority of some unnamed person that judicial proceedings in the Supreme court had been bought.

The travelling expenses of judges were read from the public accounts, the last being Mr. Justice Clement's. "I have not mentioned before," the case of a man was mentioned whose evidence Mr. Justice McClelland had disbelieved and whom the late Thomas Greenway had given evidence before in the railway commission, desired to have followed to British Columbia and prosecuted for perjury, but whom Mr. Justice Clement is said to have commended on one occasion as having given evidence in a businesslike way.

It might be explained in passing that Mr. Greenway died before he ever sat on the bench of the railway commission. Mr. Macgowan went on to state what presumably was the charge which had to do with the alleged disappearance of some dead Yukoner's money, a charge of misappropriation against an official and a "disappearance" of the latter, first from Grand Forks and then to the bench.

Mr. Brewster pointed out to the hon. gentleman that if he had any charges to make he was going about it in entirely the wrong way. He should do as some one in the House some years ago, when some charge was made against a judge, and a commission was appointed with power to examine witnesses. Then if any cause for complaint was found it would be for the Attorney-General to present the matter to the Dominion department of justice, which alone had power to cut down the bench, and then, if necessary, to make a number of vague charges, unsupported by any evidence, and he had neglected to give the House any hint of the statement which must have been made by the gentleman in question. Let the guilty suffer if there were any, but first prove their guilty.

The Attorney-General stated that the government could not accept the amendment, as the inability of provinces to interfere in the appointment of members of the bench had been clearly laid down. In 1853 in the case of a Manitoba statute, Sir John A. Macdonald reported that it was ultra vires of the provinces to have any restrictions as to who should be appointed to the bench. Subsequent ministers of justice took the same stand, Sir Alex. Campbell in 1881, Sir John Thompson in 1882, Sir Oliver Mowat in 1892, and Sir Charles Fitzpatrick in 1905 in the case of the British Columbia act calling for barristers of ten years' standing.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite resented the attack made on Mr. Justice Clement, although he did not say so, and he had spoken as he did on the Immigration Act which he declared ultra vires. Mr. Hawthornthwaite paid a tribute to the worth, integrity and legal ability of the Supreme court, mentioning Chief Justice Hunter in particular.

Premier McBride corrected the proceedings of the morning, at the same time asserting the right of members to voice their views and opinions in the House action towards the remedying of the right place any wrongs that existed.

Mr. Macgowan said he would withdraw his motion to prevent the questioning of the Attorney-General's bill, but he would return to the matter another session, he said.

The Canadian Northern Pacific bill was put through committee this morning, and the House adjourned.

Four of the Attorney-General's bills got the same stage and following that were read a third time.

DAVID SPENCER, LIMITED

Women's Easter Suits of Marked Distinction

The styles in Women's Costumes this year are noted for their decidedly manish effects and fine tailoring. The values are better than ever before, the quality of material has that beautiful soft finish so characteristic of good quality goods. In fact, the suits this season are ultra-fashionable without being extreme; they are made along most graceful lines, being tight fitting, with hip length coats, that are indeed smart. The skirts are all the new pleated style. The following descriptions only give you a partial idea. Better come in and see for yourself.

Women's Costumes, \$20

WOMEN'S COSTUMES, in blue, black, grey and green, made of fine French Venetian. Coats hip length, semi-fitting, with very smart finish of stitched straps. Skirt in new pleated effect. Price is \$20.00

Women's Costumes, \$35

WOMEN'S COSTUMES, in taupe, with shadow stripe made of very fine French cord. Coats hip length, semi-fitting, with turned seams, finished with stitching, single-breasted, and side pockets, lined throughout with silk. Skirt pleated and finished with stitching. Price \$35.00

Women's Coats at \$15

WOMEN'S COVERT COATS, seven-eighth length, semi-fitting, single-breasted, roll collar and reverses and deep cuffs, finished with clusters of stitching. Price \$15.00

Women's Coats at \$20

WOMEN'S COATS, in black and white, grey and white, and brown and white check, seven-eighth length, also tight-fitting, single-breasted, with large buttons, roll collar and cuffs, and outside patch pockets, finished with stitching. Price \$20.00

The New Dress Goods Are of Unusual Merit This Season

OUR STOCK IS REPLETE IN EVERY DETAIL.

We venture to say and are positive that a better or more assorted stock of dress goods would be hard to find. Every known weave and texture is represented on our dress goods shelves. The qualities this season are the finest for the price that it has been our good fortune to show, all the season's very newest effects being correctly reflected. It only remains for you to pay this department a visit to convince you that the Spencer Dress Goods Department can save you money.

VAN DYKE SUITINGS, the popular diagonal weave for suits, coats, in shades of pique, bisque, light olive, rose, wisteria, Copenhagen, grey, taupe, 46 inches wide. Per yard \$1.25

TWO-TONE HERRINGBONE CLOTH, shown in dark grey, taupe, mode and light grey, 52 in. Per yard \$1.50

SHEPHERD CHECKS are very strong again this season, and no materials look smarter than a well-tailored check suit, 52 in. Per yard \$1.25

FRENCH SERGE, shown in Copenhagen, mode, taupe, reseda, wisteria; 52 in. Per yard \$1.25

ANGORA, GREY MIXTURES IN FRENCH SERGE; 52 in. Per yard \$1.50

ENGLISH SUITING, in two-tone effect, in checks, stripes and plaid. A really smart tailored suit; 54 in. Per yard... \$2.50

ALEXANDRA CLOTH, 44 in. Extra good quality. Per yard \$1.50

STRIPE ARMURE SUITING, in self color, with invisible stripe. Colors, wisteria, taupe, olive, green, navy, reseda, grey, green, brown, rose, seaweed green and black. Very special; 44 in. Yard, \$1.00

NEW RESILDA, in all the newest colors; 44 in. Per yard \$1.50

Our stock of Navy Blue Serge was never better, and we absolutely guarantee every yard fast color. Price; per yard, \$1.00 to \$1.50

GRAND MILLINERY OPENING, TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Tuesday will be a day in which Dame Fashion presides in our millinery department. All the new styles for the season of 1910 will be gorgeously displayed. Importations, direct from Paris will be shown in endless array which includes the latest style features in Pattern Hats, etc. This representative showing will be something well worth seeing. Pattern Hats from the world's famous attellers will be opened for your inspection as well as many clever creations executed in our own workrooms. Your presence here Tuesday will be greatly appreciated.

New Spring Goods for Men

Every day now brings new arrivals in Shoes, made especially for us in the largest and most up-to-date shoe factories in U. S. A. and Canada. Our three-store buying power gives us an enormous advantage in the way of obtaining special prices and discounts. Consequently we are able to place our shoes on sale to you at considerably lower prices than is possible elsewhere, if indeed they can be bought, elsewhere. All the new styles are here—new lasts and patterns that cannot fail to appeal to the man of taste and judgment. Call and see them. We shall be proud to show them to you.

MEN'S PATENT COLTSKIN BOOTS in a great variety of styles and tones. Spencer's "Quite Right" brand, \$6 and \$5.00

MEN'S FINE CALFSKIN BOOTS, broad, medium or narrow toes. Spencer's "Quite Right" brand, \$9.00 and \$5.00

Charming Designs in New Neckwear

Our Neckwear Department is one of the most interesting places in the store. Hundreds of new and pretty designs are here, open for your inspection. There are also a very exquisite variety of Cascade of net edged with fine lace. This is just the thing for the necks of blouses, priced at 75c. Then you will find beautiful Embroidered Lawn Coat Collars, with scalloped edges, designs of these being very dainty, at 35c each, while the following will give you a slight idea of the many new novelties which are to be had.

CORD PIPING, in lawn. Splendid for finishing a coat, in shades of white, cream, pink and sky. Price 35c

STOCK COLLARS, made of fine embroidered lawn and Valenciennes lace, with dainty little bow to match. Each 75c

SAANICH AND ITS NEW

QUESTION DISCUSSED AT COUNCIL MEETING

Public Meetings Will be in All the Wards of Municipality

The regular fortnightly meeting of the Saanich Council was held at the Glanford avenue chambers yesterday afternoon. Judging from the crowded state of the chambers for more commodious premises, the meeting was a very plainy affair. There were about 20 councillors present and even occupied.

Interest centered round the question of a new hall versus the old one. The pros and cons of the question were ably debated by the councillors, and the matter will be continued during the next meeting. There was a question as to whether the Royal Cordova Bay park, this year, great convenience to the seekers during the summer. C. H. French wrote a letter to the council, proposing to build a new hall, providing that the city should pay half the cost. This order to be proceeded with. A. G. Goward, manager of the Cordova Bay railway, wrote a letter to the council, proposing that the line be used for their property, which would be used for storage. Councillor Sewell moved the matter and it was referred to the committee to submit plans as to the matter.

E. Le Mesurier wrote a letter to the council, proposing that the Burnside road fronting him be widened to 20 feet. This was referred to the committee to submit plans as to the matter.

D. R. Ker inquired when the council would be available for a meeting at the Gorge and Tillamook roads, when this was forthcoming, estate would be subdivided on the market.

Councillor Sewell moved that the council should be informed progress was being made, and as soon as it was placed the 2-inch pipe at the end of the road, a local by-law will be submitted.

C. W. Beale wrote a letter to the council, proposing that the road on Arbutus and W. which was laid on the road to the Gorge, be widened to 20 feet. A petition from W. G. others asking that Kennet be opened up, on motion of Mr. Borden, received and referred to the committee to submit plans as to the matter.

On motion of Councillor G. decided to open up a road from the Gorge to the Bay road, and the council should be informed progress was being made, and as soon as it was placed the 2-inch pipe at the end of the road, a local by-law will be submitted.

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