Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH, 1888.

THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE

Of the Province of British Columbia for the Financial Year Ending 30th June 1889.

Public Debt.—Interest, $89,878.55; sinking fund, 40,053.00; premium and exchange, 400.00; discount and commission, 1,000.00. Total, $131,331.55.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT (SALARIES).

Lieutenant-Governor's office, $1,500; provincial secretary and minister of mines, 16,370; treasury, 8,520; lands and works department, 11,220; attorney general, 6,120; land registry office, 9,345; legislation, 1,650; registration of voters, 525; asylum for the insane, 9,400; revenue services, 4,620; assay offices, 2,700; forestry inspector, 1,500; temporary departmental assistance, 1,500. Total, $74,970.00.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (SALARIES).

Supreme court, $7,180; county court, 1,980; sheriffs, 2,000; stipendiary magistrates, 3,300; superintendence of police and gaols, 2,520; police and gaols, Victoria, 6,880; do. Esquimalt, 840; do New Westminster, 7,432; do. New Westminster District, 840; do Kootenay District, 10,240; do. Cariboo District, 5,284; do. Cassiar District, 2,760; do. Lytton and Ashcroft, 2,040; do. Kamloops, 3,180; do. Okanagon, 2,460; do. Similkameen, 4,400; Nanaimo, 6,000; Cowichan, 1,440; Comox, 720; Lillooet District, 4,200. Total, $75,696.00.

LEGISLATION.

Indemnity to members, $10,800; mileage, 3,000; registration of voters, 50; expenses of elections, 500; contingent fund, 450; journals and statutes binding, 1,000. Total, $15,800.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS (MAINTENANCE).

Printing office, Victoria, $2,800; assay offices, 500; asylum for the insane, New Westminster, 7,450. Total $10,750.

HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES.

Hospital, Victoria, $5,000; hospital, New Westminster, 3,000; hospital, Cariboo, 4,000; hospital, Nanaimo, 3,000; hospital, Kamloops, 3,000; hospital, Vancouver, 3,000; hospital allowance, Cassiar, 250; in aid of destitute poor and sick, 750; in aid of resident physician at Clinton, 750; convalescent home, Victoria, 2,000. Total, $24,750.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (OTHER THAN SALARIES).

Summoning and paying jurors and witnesses, $8,000; prosecution and interpreters, 3,000; expenses of inquests, 1,000; criminal punishments, 500; rewards, 1,000; keep of prisoners, 12,000; rents, 800; special constables, 6,500; transport of prisoners and constables, 6,000; miscellaneous, 1,200. Total, $40,000.

EDUCATION.

Education office, $4,840; Victoria city district, 19,040; Victoria district, 6,080; Esquimalt district, 4,500; Cowichan, district, 7,100; Nanaimo district, 12,700; Comox district, 2,560; New Westminster city district, 6,260; New Westminster district, 24,080; Hope-Yale district, 15,975; Lillooet district, 3,800; Cariboo district, 3,180; Kootenay district, 1,520. Total, $111,635.00.

TRANSPORT.

Freight on remittances, $300; travelling expenses of officers on duty, 3,000; keep of horses, 200. Total, $3,500.

RENT.

Government house, Victoria, $48.50.

REVENUE SERVICES.

Commission, courts of appeal, travelling expenses, Micellaneous, &c., $7,000.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Works and buildings, 68,475; Government House, Victoria, 4,850; roads, streets bridges and wharves, 162,100; surveys, 3,000. Total, $238,425.

Works and Buildings—Repairs to government buildings, Victoria, $3,500; do New Westminster, 600; do Nanaimo, 200; do Yale district, 500; do Lillooet district, 200, Cariboo district, 100; Kootenay district, 200; Cassiar district, 200; do asylum for the insane, 1,000; do gaol at Victoria, 400; do New Westminster, 1,000; do Kamloops, 600; court house, New Westminster (construction), 10,000; lock-up at Moodyville, 350; do Alberni, 400; do Port Simpson, 500; county court house, Vancouver, 5,000; law courts, Victoria (furniture, fittings, and fixtures), 8,000; court house, Nanaimo (furniture and fencing), 1,850; government office, Fort Steele, Kootenay (construction), 600; do Kootenay Lake, 400; lock-up at Rock Creek, 500; court house, Chemainus, 300; furniture for government offices, 1,000; improvement of government reserves, 500; insurance of government buildings, 3,000; public schools, Vancouver, (construction and furniture), 4,000; do Victoria, 4,300; do Aldergroove(re-vote), 600; do. Donald, re-vote, 1,000; do. Grand Prairie, 700; do. New Westminster, 2,500; do. Sapperton, 700; do. Victoria West, (including site), 2,000; do. Delta, 700; do. Haney, 700; do. Enderby, 700; do. English, 700; do. Rocky Point, 600; do. East Sooke, 600; do. Round Prairie, 700; do. Quesnelle, 600; do. Victoria, (general repairs of buildings, etc.), 1,000; do. Chemainus, 250; do. Hope, 225; public schools throughout the province—(sundry repairs, etc.), 1,800; improving outlet to Quamichan Lake, 500; boring for artesian wells, 3,000. Total, $68,475.

Government House, Victoria.—Repairs to building, $1,500; furniture, 1,000; fencing, 500; water, 200; fuel and light, 800; improving grounds, 200; gardener, 12 months at $50, 600; miscellaneous, 50. Total, $4,850.

Roads, streets, bridges and wharves.—Victoria district, $7,500; Esquimalt district, 5,000; Cowichan district, 6,500; Salt Spring Island and islands at Plumper Pass, 1,500; Nanaimo district, 7,000; Alberni, 2,500; Comox district, 3,000; New Westminster district, 12,000; Yale district, 18,000; Lillooet district, 5,000; Cariboo district, 8,000; Cassiar district, 800; Kootenay district, 15,000; Main trunk road, 16,000; Victoria and Esquimalt trunk road, including Indian Reserve road, 3,000; Victoria and Nanaimo trunk road, 1,000; Nanaimo and Alberni trunk road, 1,000; New Westminster and Vancouver trunk road, 3,500; North Arm and Vancouver road, 1,500; Harrison Hot Springs road, 1,500; trunk road, New Westminster to Hope, 1,500; Kayoosh Creek road, 2,000; Rock Creek road, 2,000; Illecillewaet road, 2,000; Saanich main road, 1,000; in aid of bridge on North Arm of Fraser river, 10,000; Fraser river bridge near Lillooet (re-vote), 17,000; municipalities in New Westminster district, 6,000; Cowichan municipality, 1,000; Soda Creek ferry subsidy, 300. Total, $162,100.

SURVEYS.

Throughout the province, $3,000.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Advertising, $2,500; stationery, 3,700; postage, 2,500; telegrams, 1,500; fuel and light, 2,500; library — legislative and departmental, 350; library — attorney general's department, 250; refunds, 1,000; premium on guarantee bonds, 300; fire department, Nanaimo, 500; fire department, New Westminster, 500; fire department, Vancouver, 500; fire department, Barkerville, 500; fire department, Kamloops, 500; fire department, Quesnelle, 250; reporting judges' decisions, 250; agricultural societies, 1,000; telephone service, 700; British Columbia Agricultural Association, in aid of a provincial exhibition, 1,000; consolidated statutes, printing and binding (completion), 2,000; in aid of prospecting and explorations, 2,000; destruction of wolves and panthers in settled districts throughout the province, 150; museum, 2,500; in aid of militia, 600; superannuation—monthly allowance to late messenger D. Deasy, 12 months to 30th June, 1889 at $40 per month, 480; in aid of communication to remote settlements, 1,200; grant to building fund of Jubilee Hospital (re-vote), 20,000; miscellaneous, not detailed, 3,000.

Immigration.—Immigration agent at New Westminter, 12 months to 30th June, 1889, at $100 per month, $1,200; London office contingencies, 500; miscellaneous, 2,000. Total, $55,930.00.

ESTIMATE OF REVENUE AND RECEIPTS

Of the Province of British Columbia for the Financial Year Ending 30th June, 1889.

HEADS OF RECEIPTS.		AMOUNT.
Dominion of Canada, annual payment of interest @ 5 per cent		$ 29,151 05
Dominion of Canada, annual payment of subsidy to government and legislature		35,000 00
Dominion of Canada, annual payment of grant per capita		48,000 00
Dominion of Canada, annual payment for lands conveyed for railway		100,000 00
Land sales		75,000 00
Land Revenue		4,000 00
Timber royalty and licenses		30,000 00
Survey fees		200 00
Rents (exclusive of land)		30 00
Rents (timber leases)		10,000 00
Rents (ferries)		100 00
Free miners' certificates		12,000 00
Mining receipts, general		9,000 00
Licenses		25,000 00
Marriage licenses		1,400 00
Real property tax		50,000 00
Personal property tax		36,000 00
Wild land tax		15,000 00
Income tax		2,700 00
Provincial revenue tax		55,000 00
Registered Taxes (all denominations)		200 00
Tax sale deeds		100 00
Revenue service refunds		50 00
Fines and forfeitures		7,000 00
Law stamps		5,000 00
Probate fees		1,500 00
Registry fees		13,000 00
Assay office receipts		400 00
Asylum for the insane		200 00
Printing office receipts		2,000 00
Sale of Government property		300 00
Reimbursements in aid		700 00
Interest		13,000 00
Interest on investment of sinking funds		7,500 00
"Chinese Restriction Act, 1884," (Dominion Government refund)		500 00
Sale of Consolidated Statutes		1,000 00
Educational estimates from city districts (Victoria, New Westminster, Nanaimo, Vancouver)		11,140 00
Total		$601,381 05

SUMMARY

Of the Estimated Expenditure of the Financial Year Ending 30th June, 1889.

SERVICE.		AMOUNT.
Public Debt		$131,331 55
Civil Government (salaries)		74,970 00
Administration of Justice (salaries)		75,696 00
Legislation		15,800 00
Public Institutions (maintenance)		10,750 00
Hospitals and Charities		24,750 00
Administration of Justice (other than salaries)		40,000 00
Education		111,635 00
Transport		3,500 00
Rent		48 50
Revenue Services		7,000 00
Public Works:		
Works and buildings	$ 68,475	
Government House	4,850	
Roads, streets, bridges and wharves	162,100	
Surveys	3,000	238,425 00
Miscellaneous		55,930 00
Total		$789,836 05

THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Proceedings of the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament.

THIRTY-NINTH DAY.

FRIDAY, April 6.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:15 o'clock.

Prayers were offered by the Rev. Dr. Reid.

PETITIONS.

The petitions from Chemainus, Salt Spring Island, and Saanich in reference to the liquor traffic were read and received.

The petition of John Draut in reference to a loss in regard to imports was read and received. The petition set forth that he had lost some $500 in importing flour in 1879, and asked the house to take the matter into favorable consideration.

The petition of Samuel Greer set forth the facts in regard to his well-known case against the C.P.R., and asked for a bill to secure to him a crown grant.

Mr. Speaker said he thought the petition was out of order.

Mr. Bole asked that the decision of Mr. Speaker might be given in writing.

Mr. Speaker said he would do so tomorrow.

The petition of L. and M. Gold was declared out of order. It was in the first place not addressed to the legislature, and in the second it was not an original petition but a copy.

REPORTS.

Col. Baker presented a report of the private bills committee, stating the preamble proved in the bill for the relief of settlers on Matsqui prairie. Several clauses were added to the bill.

Mr. Bole said he did not agree with all the principles of the bill as reported by the committee.

Mr. Orr agreed to the reporting of the bill as at present, with the understanding that some portions of the bill which had been eliminated for fear of being declared out of order, would be considered in committee of the whole.

The report was received and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Anderson presented the report of the select committee on the "Workmen's Wages Bill." The committee reported two bills, one to amend the bill relating to "Mechanics Liens," the other for the "Protection of Workmen's Wages."

Report received.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys presented a report of the select committee on interstate estates, asking for further time and power.

After some consideration the report was withdrawn.

The house then decided to proceed with the orders of the day.

LAND ACT AMENDMENT.

House went into committee on Hon. Mr. Vernon's "Land Act Amendment Bill." Mr. Higgins in the chair.

After the passing of several clauses, and the exhaustive consideration of others, the committee reported progress.

Mr. Ladner presented the report of the select committee appointed to inquire into the claim of Rev. Geo. Ditcham for 160 acres of land in Westminster district. It was favorable to a crown grant being issued to Mr. Ditcham.

The report was referred back to the committee for some slight amendment.

THE ESTIMATES.

The estimates for the year 1888-89 were presented to the house.

The usual resolutions were passed.

VANCOUVER ACT.

Hon. Mr. Robson asked leave to amend the Vancouver incorporation act, 1886.

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

House adjourned until Monday.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Mr. Beaven—To ask the chief commissioner: What was the amount, and rate per day, paid to the following persons in the months of June or July, 1885, for work upon the Kootenay trails: Mathew Herber, Charles Strope, Samuel Gervan, and upon what day they were employed.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. Bole—To move that a select committee be appointed to enquire into and report upon the claims of Louis L. E. Gold to certain land in New Westminster district, such committee to consist of Messrs. Anderson, Allen, Croft, Thomson and the mover, with power to call for persons, books and papers.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys—To move that an order of the house be granted for a return of all intestate estates that have been settled or that are in process of settlement from the date of the last return, 12th January, 1888.

Mr. Allen—To move that, whereas the assay office in Victoria is closed; be it resolved, that in the opinion of this house it is desirable to appoint an efficient officer to act as assayer, and that the appointment be made without delay.

FORTIETH DAY.

MONDAY, April 9.

Mr. Speaker took the clair at 2:15 o'clock.

Prayers were offered by the Rev. Dr. Reid

REPORTS.

Col. Baker presented the report of the private bills committee, reporting the preamble proved in the Westminster private bill, and the bill complete without amendment. Report received.

Mr. Beaven asked the hon. finance minister when the supplementary estimates would be presented. It had been recommended by the public accounts committee that they be presented before the estimates for 1889 were discussed.

Hon. Mr. Turner said this was the first he had heard of any such recommendation.

It was then stated that it was the recommendation of a former house.

Hon. Mr. Turner said that the supplementary estimates would probably be printed on the following day.

Mr. Ladner presented the report of the select committee on Rev. Geo. Ditcham's claim, recommending that the latter be issued a crown grant. Report received and ordered to be printed.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented a return of papers in connection with the claim of Kinipple & Morris, and Mr. Bennett, C.E.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

Hon Mr. Turner said: It devolves on me, Mr. Speaker, to move that you do leave the chair. It is usual in this house, sir, for the finance minister to deliver at this stage of the proceedings what is known as the Budget Speech. This has so long been the custom that it has almost become a rule, though I believe that in legislatures in other provinces and also in what I may call the mother house—the House of Commons, London—this speech is frequently given at another time, viz., when the house considers ways and means. I propose, however, to follow the custom here and make my remarks on our financial affairs at this time. I must confess, Mr. Speaker, that I approach this with a considerable amount of difidence, it being my first attempt in this direction, and I must ask the indulgence of hon. members on both sides of the house toward my shortcomings. I do not, however, wish it to be thought in asking this that I desire to escape criticism; it is not the matter, but the manner, that I ask you to bear with. My intention is to put before you, sir, in a simple and straightforward statement of what I consider to be the financial position. Taking into consideration the very careful way in which the public accounts are kept, and the very voluminous and exact form in which they are put forth in the financial statement which is in the hands of every member of the house, it appears to me to be unnecessary to enlarge on the accounts for the current year, the tabulated forms so clearly explain everything in connection therewith. I must, however, ask you, sir, to go back for the commencement of the present financial year, the 1st July, 1887. At that time there was a liability of the province over assets of $359,836 to be provided for, and at the same time the estimated expenditure for the coming year to be provided. This expenditure was estimated to amount to, including supplementary, $848,484, the estimated revenue being $525,661, or $323,823 less than the expenditure. This added to on this side of liability amounted to $683,659. I may here say that this large liability in a great measure arose from the heavy expenditure necessary for public works that were calculated to open up and benefit the province, and considering the condition of the country it was of the utmost importance that these works should go on for the benefit of the miner, the agriculturist, and, indeed, for the benefit of all the people of the province. The government of the time had, therefore, to devise a plan to pay off this heavy account and provide for the future. That government faced the difficulty with commendable courage; it resolved to recommend a loan, and as you know, sir, this recommendation was ably supported by this house; the Loan Act was passed for $1,000,000. It was first proposed, however, though launching the loan for that amount, to take up only half of it, the other half to be taken up later. But the executive soon found that it would be more advantageous to take up the whole loan at once, as by so doing the bonds would bring a higher price and the interest be at a lower rate; so it was decided to call for the million dollars, or, in more exact figures, $995,400. This amount was issued and sold at par, realizing to the province not cash here $975,955, the whole cost for commission, exchange, stamps, etc., being $20,234, and the interest is 4½ per cent. I cannot help at this point referring to the previous loan (that of 1877) and contrasting the two. The 1877 was for £150,0000. It sold at a considerable discount, the cost of it being for commission, stamps, exchange, etc., $41,018, so that it realized to the province, cash here, only $686,481, and bore interest at 6 per cent. So that to obtain for the province $100 net in 1877 it cost about $6.00 for expense, etc., while in 1887 the same amount cost $208, and whilst the sinking fund and interest on the 1877 loan of $686,481 amounts to $58,200 annually, the sinking fund and interest for the 1887 loan of $975,955 amounts to only $62,288, and from this for the present must be deducted the interest at 4½ per cent on the half of the loan not used, as that was part of the arrangement made in taking up the loan. I cannot pass this without eulogizing the government for the admirable manner in which this loan was affected, and for the wisdom shown in deciding on a loan at the right time. In doing this I wish to say that I was not connected with the government at that time, so that there is no self-laudation in these remarks. The credit is due to the Hon. Mr. Robson and to another gentleman, whose enforced absence from the house every member sincerely regrets. I refer to the Hon. Mr. Davie, who we hope soon to see again in his place. The successful way in which this loan was launched shows clearly the greatly improved credit of the province in the last ten years. This improvement is no doubt largely due to good government, as the credit of a country largely hinges on that, and to-day its credit has still further advanced. When this loan was proposed to the house I well remember the direful forebodings of the gentlemen of the opposition respecting it. Most of them were sure that the government was not capable of launching it properly. They were certain that the expenses on it would be enormous; that the finance minister or his friends would at any rate make a fortune out of it, and further, that if the money was got, it would all be wastefully expended in the first year. One hon. gentleman in particular was sure that not only would it all be spent before the 30th of June, 1888, but in addition the province would be $500,000 more on the wrong side of the account. The organ of that party asserted that the London agent of the province, my partner, would claim fully $40,000, to be divided with me. This, I am sorry to say, has not been the case. (Laughter.) It is also stated that all the loan would be expended before the end of this year. I am happy to be able to dissipate these forebodings, and to comfort these gentleman and their organ by showing them that not only is the loan not all expended, but instead of that the province, after paying all the liabilities I at first referred to, will have to its credit on the 30th June next about $430,000 or $440,000, and possibly much more. I am sure, sir, that these hon. gentlemen on learning this will be inclined, instead of censuring the government as they propose, to pass instead a vote of congratulation to that government. I can tell these gentlemen still further that at the end of another financial year, which we are to provide for now, that is on the 30th of June, 1889. The province will have well on to $250,000 at least to its credit. I hope these gentlemen will, however, be able to keep their exuberant delight within bounds when they are positively assured of this good position of affairs. I will now refer to the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year ending 30th of June, 1889, taking first the receipts. We estimate the total as $601,381, or an increase over estimated revenue of the present year of $75,720. This increase arises under the heads of timber royalty, real and personal property tax, and refund from municipalities of school charges. These estimates have been made with the utmost care and after great consideration, and are, I believe, rather under than over-estimated. I believe that it is a serious mistake to over-estimate revenue. The system of over-estimating revenue has become the regular plan of almost every government, and it tends, in my opinion, to bad results. The Provincial revenue tax, it will be observed, is estimated the same as for the previous year. I believe, however that we will probably collect more. The reason for this item appearing to stand still from year to year, I believe, arises from the great decrease in our Chinese population. From the best authority we have on the subject there were 16,000 Chinamen in the country three years ago; there are now not over 8,000. Only 122 new arrivals of Chinamen are reported for last year, and 180 returned who held certificates to leave the country. The last report from the same authority that about 10,000 whites were added to our population in 1887. I do not think it necessary to go more into detail respecting revenue, and I will now, with your permission, turn to the estimated expenditure. This shows a total of $789,836, being an increase over 1887-8 of $70,155 or, say, $188,455 over the estimated receipts. This is an apparent increase over expenditure of the present year. In fact, however, it is a smaller expenditure, as in the present year we have heavy supplementary estimates to add. I have no doubt that gentlemen opposite will feelingly deprecate this expenditure over income occurring—and I feel myself that it is not a desirable state of things; but, as will be seen by the estimates, the disparity between the receipt and expenditure has been considerably lessened. The commencement is now made towards bringing them nearer together, and I believe that by a vigorous and careful collection of all the revenue, and careful expenditure, we shall soon get the finances into the position of making both ends meet, if that is desirable. At the same time I confess that the condition of our province is such as to make this a difficult matter. When we consider the vast extent of the country, and the endless demand from all parts for roads, bridges, schools, and, I am sorry to say, also for constables and gaols, it will be readily seen that it is a province that requires a large expenditure in order to open it up and improve it. These expenses with its limited population point to the fact that if all wants were supplied there must either be more taxation added to the previous liability or further loans. The first of these is undeniable and always unpopular, though I must say that I think our taxation is not heavy, particularly when we compare it with the adjoining country or some other provinces. In New Zealand taxation amounts to £3 14s. 2d., about $18.50 per head of population. Here it is not, as I gather, I think, $2.50 per head of white population. On the other hand, loans if carried too far must have a tendency to reduce our credit and in the end also increase taxation, unless the money can be so applied as to cause prosperity in the country and an increase of population. I think that just now we should be content to limit our wants for a little, and see the beneficial results that should arise from the expenditure already made, or that we can fairly still make for the good of the province. Yet I find that hon. gentlemen complain of the smallness of expenditure in many districts, and one hon. gentleman had promised quite recently that at least $50,000 should be expended in his district this year,—this district, I may casually remark, gives a revenue of about $1,500! If the expenditure were to be carried out on this scale, to what position would the province come? I will now go into the estimated expenditure a little more in detail in reference to the increase under several heads: I find on public debt the increase is $29,288; this arises from the interest and sinking fund being charged on the whole of the million dollar loan, whereas in last year's estimates the interest and sinking fund was for only half the loan. Under the head of civil government salaries, the increase is $8,800; this is more apparent than real, as far as this department is concerned. A considerable portion of it arises from what in former years appeared as temporary services, being now placed on the permanent staff. I may say that though formerly classed as temporary it virtually was regularly employed. This change accounts for $2,160. The requirements at the printing office account for $1,000. The transfer of mining inspector, transferred from administration of justice, is $1,200 more. The new officers are assessor and collector at New Westminster and assistant at same place, and forestry inspector $1,910, the actual increase to salaries for the old officers in this department being only $1,200. In administration of justice salaries, the increase here over 1887 arises in the same way, the increase to existing salaries being trifling; but owing to new mining and other districts being opened up it became absolutely necessary to appoint new officers. For instance, additional constables at Rock creek and Granite creek $2,400; Kootenay lake $1,200; Kamloops, $720; constable at Chemainus, $720; stipendiary magistrates at Yale and New Westminster, $1,000; and other smaller appointments, and one for shorthand writers. It will from this be seen that the increase as before mentioned, to existing salaries is very small. The cost of this department, I am sorry to say, steadily increases. It is, to a certain extent, an expenditure on account of our criminals. If we take the cost for salaries and add to the cost of administration of police other than salaries, it amounts to $115,696, which is approximate to the vote for educational purposes. I do not wish to insinuate that the criminal increase and education are at all connected; but certainly we hope that with our large expenditure on education to soon see as a result the diminution of cost for criminals. In hospitals and charities there is an increase of $3,000, being $1,000 for Vancouver, $500 for Kamloops, and convalescent home at Victoria $2000, the New Westminster vote being $500 less. I may say, sir, that the convalescent home is really a provincial one, as the inmates are from all parts of the province. For education there is $9,940 increase, arising from requirement for ten new schools. Against this may be taken the refund which appears in the estimates of revenue of $11,140. To add to the large amount of this vote is the cost of building ten new schools for $24,075, which appear under another head. I cannot but feel that the cost of education is excessive for the number of our population. I hope that the very admirable system which prevails now will prove as advantageous as its promoters believe it will, and I am sure this vote will be approved by both sides of the house. (Hear, hear). In public works a slight reduction of $9,125 appears under this head. Still, I think, in going over particulars of the work to be done, it will be seen that it is large in amount and beneficial in character, and calculated to help to improve and develop our province. A very large expenditure has been made in this direction for several years past, so that districts generally are fairly supplied with roads. Miscellaneous: The increase under this head arises mainly from the vote for the Jubilee hospital. In fact, if we compare British Columbia with other countries it will be found we are much better provided with roads than most of the rest of this continent, yet it is sometimes said that British Columbians are not progressive. Well, sir, in liberal their expenditure for roads and public works, for opening up the country, and for education they are, I think, in the very front rank of progressive people. It is difficult anywhere to find a country where such great works have been carried out by so small a population, and this is an evidence of our intelligence and energy and unselfishness. (Hear, hear.) I have now, sir, gone through the principal items of expenditure and will only again briefly allude to the prospect of the position of financial matters for the year commencing 1st July, 1888, and ending June 30, 1889. We shall commence that year with $450,000 to add to the large amount of this year's expenditure. There will be $188,455 over revenue, so that on 30th June, 1889, we shall still have a credit balance of at least $230,000 to $240,000. I think, Mr. Speaker, that with such a showing, we have reason to congratulate ourselves. I must at this point call your attention to the progress of the province which is shown by the steady increase of revenue: In 1881 the total revenue was $397,035; in 1882, $405,583; in 1886, $514,719; and in 1887, $537,335. This increase looks healthy; but the real increase of revenue is greater than what these figures show. As you know, Mr. Speaker, a large part of this revenue is fixed. I refer to that part received from the Dominion. In 1881 and 1882 the amount so received was $208,000, so that the actual revenue produced by the province in those years was respectively, after deducting the amount received from the Dominion—the actual revenue, I say, was $189,035 and $198,585, whilst, if we deduct the part revenue from the Dominion from 1886 and 1887, it leaves our revenue which is produced by the province as $302,569 and $325,184 or an increase of nearly 75 per cent. I will, however, trespass on the patience of the house no longer. I am aware that many gentlemen are nervously anxious to get their turn at the debate. According to old-established custom this is the opportunity during the session in which hon. members can freely express their views and state their grievances irrespective of the actual resolution before them. The members of the government have been threatened with a terrific exposure at this time; it has been held up before their imagination by members opposite during the whole of this session as a time when all their shortcomings would be visited on them. I feel, sir, that every member of the government and the government supporters are delighted that the gentlemen opposite may now have as much liberty as they desire, and I feel that we need fear no evil as the result of the terrific explosion with the most comfortable composure. The hon. gentleman concluded by moving that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair, and resumed his seat amidst applause.

Mr. Beaven said that after the very temperate address of the minister of finance, he would not follow out the course of attack which that, hon. gentleman had predicted. He, however, was astray in some of his figures. There was not a healthy increase in the revenue, as was shown by the figures. The revenue for 1882 for the first half year was $206,000. The returns for the first six months of the present year were $245,000, $35,000 of which was composed of $25,000 forfeit from the Kootenay railway and $10,000 for interest, leaving actual revenue $210,000, which he did not think a very healthy increase. The statement was made that there would be $240,000 at the credit of the province at the end of the fiscal year 1888-9. By deducting supplementary estimates and other amounts provided for there would be little of that sum left. He would predict, moreover, that such would not be the case, and that there would be an overdraft at the bank.

(Hon. Mr. Humphreys—Hear, hear, that's correct).

Hon. Mr. Turner—You don't hope so?

Mr. Beaven—I merely take your figures. He thought the management of the finances of the province by the present government was the principal fault against them. They had had a good chance to make a good record. But they had last year asked and secured a million loan, promising to use but half of it; the balance sheet, however, showed that they had but $450,000 of the loan on hand. It would be seen that every session they came down to the house with an erroneous statement. The provincial secretary could not deny it, for it was in print. The amount of actual revenue received by the present government while in office was $2,600,000, while the amount expended since February, 1883, was the sum of $3,442,000, an excess over revenue of $842,000. They had sold the dry dock and borrowed a million dollars to secure revenue. It was claimed that they had done a great deal for the country, but this was not so. No land surveys had been made to forward settlement. The increase of governing the country was nearly 100 per cent. over that when they came into office in 1883. Administration of justice and civil government salaries had increased from $80,000 in 1883 to $150,000, the present estimate—an increase of $70,000. The increase in these departments was very great. The decrease promised was in the construction of public works. This government was unjust to their predecessors in office. The latter had promised the country to keep within the revenue and had faithfully carried their promise out. But the present government, if they practiced this policy would not have $1,000 to spend in public works. The estimated revenue was too great, and he felt sure they would have to go to a bank for an overdraft. He wondered how long hon. gentleman opposite would remain in office if they had not a dollar to spend in public works? If they kept on running the province in the present reckless manner, there would a time come when the borrowing capacity of the province would stop. They had borrowed money and increased taxation, and it would soon have to stop. It was the fact of this increased taxation and borrowing which proved the unjust treatment of former a government, which had kept within the revenue. The present finance minister was not responsible for the estimates of 1887, but the provincial secretary was and in the estimated amounts for that fiscal year, in various items there was a large decrease in the amounts received, altogether $65,000, out of the actual revenue of $540,000. How was it then possible to place confidence in the figures placed before the house. While they over-estimated the revenue they under-estimated the expenditure. They were to have received millions of dollars from the sale of lands on English Bay, and they would have done so had the scheme been handled in a business like manner, but any Siwash could have done better. They should have kept alternate blocks or lots in the townsite and then would have derived a large revenue from their sale. Instead they had given 6,000 acres and had only retained land at English Bay far from the central townsite. It had been stated that there was but an increase in salaries of $1,200, but for civil government salaries there was voted $75,000, while last year there was but $64,000. In the administration of justicte here was also a large discrepancy, the actual expenditure being $69,000, and the vote asked was $75,000. He would like to know where the $1,200 dollars came in?

Hon. Mr. Turner said that he had referred to civil government salaries. The increase of $8,800 was more apparent than real. It was caused by the transposition of amounts from other departments which, if deducted, would come to the figure he had quoted, $1,200.

Mr. Beaven did not understand that way of figuring. Lumping the two departments they were as follows: 1887-8, $131,188; 1888-9, $150,666.

Hon. Mr. Turner did not claim there was a decrease in the administration of justice. It was of civil government he had spoken.

Mr. Beaven—Comparing both years estimates it would be seen that there was an increase in the estimates of over $70,000. He would not go further into the figures, for he thought he had shown their incorrectness. It was claimed that there would be an increase in revenue of some $75,000; but $20,000 of the increased taxation would go to salaries. There was a decrease in the estimated amount of provincial revenue tax of $2,000. There was an increased estimate of timber royalty, it now being placed at $30,000. But he thought there would prove to be a deficit at the end of the year. However, he thought that he had shown that the government were unfair in their estimates; to prove their sincerity he would move at a later stage that a tax be imposed.

Mr. Beaven resumed his seat amid silence.

Mr. Grant claimed that the present government were not capable of handling the million dollar loan. They had stated that they would require but $500,000 of the amount, but at the end of six months they had spent $575,000, or more than half million. The present government in six years will have had at the end of the coming fiscal year some two million of dollars over that which was received during the six years previous. Great claim was made about the expenditure on public works, but there had been but $1,100,000 expended for public works, though they had had two millions more to handle. A refund of $12,000 was placed in the estimated revenue from municipalities on the head of schools. He thought the placing of one-third the expenditure of education on the municipalities was unfair. The cost of education in outlying districts was double per head of that, in the municipalities, and he could not see why they should be called upon to bear an unjust burden. There were many items he would like to see increased in the estimates; although they might accuse him of deprecating the expenditure and yet of seeking to increase it, he did not think the receipts showed an amount of revenue proportionate commensurate with increased population and values. He could not understand, after the boasted increase of population, why the revenue should not likewise increase. He would again impress upon the house the figures he had previously quoted, and whether this could take place if the government will have received two millions more than the previous government, in a similar period, and yet the amount expended did not make a favorable showing.

Mr. Speaker put the motion that he do leave the chair, and there being no further effort discussion it carried.

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

After passing items to the end of Statement C, the committee reported progress and will sit again.

Hon. Mr. Robson moved the adjournment of the house until two o'clock Tuesday.

FORTY-FIRST DAY.

TUESDAY, April 9th.

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

Prayers were said by the Rev. Dr. Reid.

REPORTS.

Mr. Martin presented a report of the committee.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Beaven complained of an inaccuracy in THE COLONIST report, which made him say that "at a later stage he would move that a certain tax be imposed." He had never made any such remark, and he desired that the public should be made aware of that fact. He had no power to move such a resolution.

MR. SPEAKER'S DECISION.

Mr. Speaker read his decision on the petition of S. Greer for a private bill, declaring the latter out of order. No petition for redress from the crown could be presented without the consent of the crown first having been given.

Mr. Bole desired to ask the opinion of the house.

Mr. Beaven did not think that there was a necessity for appeal as the matter could not be dealt with by a private member, unless first recommended by the crown.

Mr. Bole was quite certain that Mr. Speaker had rendered a just decision, but he deprecated the fact that a technical rule should prevent justice being done the petitioner. The latter had fought a gigantic monopoly, and his means were now exhausted. A final decision had not been rendered in the courts until too late to bring in a private bill in the usual way, as it otherwise would have been. All that was now wanted was that the case should come before the house and be treated on its merits. He trusted that there was sufficient love of British fair play in the house to allow the bill to come before the house and the petitioner allowed to secure justice against a wealthy corporation.

Hon. Mr. Robson thought the appeal of the honorable member for Westminster city to the sentiment of this house was one worthy of a special pleader. Outside of Mr. Speaker's decision, there was the B. N. A. act and the constitution of the province to prevent anything being done. He was surprised that his honorable friend should have endeavored to trample under foot all constitutional practice and the rules of the house in order to secure the presentation of the private bill. No matter how just the petitioner's claim might be, this house was not the proper tribunal before which it should be tried.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys sustained Mr. Speaker's decision. His ruling was not on mere technical grounds, but was on constitutional grounds. The trouble was that the whole business was begun at the wrong end. The petitioner should have first insisted that the government grant him justice, and if they refused he had then the right to appeal to the house, not in the form of a private bill, but against the injustice of the government. He trusted his honorable friend from Westminster would withdraw from the course he was following.

Col. Baker had not heard the decision read, but since the private bills committee had considered the petition of Mr. Greer, objection had been received from the opposite against the unusual practice, and of course that objection must have due weight.

Mr. Higgins said he would be willing to go to a great length in order to do justice over a technical objection, but in the present instance, as Mr. Speaker's decision was based on constitutional grounds, he certainly would have to support his ruling.

Mr. Speaker's decision was sustained by a vote of 14 to 6.

A QUESTION OF WARRANT.

Mr. Grant moved, seconded by Mr. Beaven, that whereas the statutes provide that no part of the revenue shall be paid out of the treasury except in pursuance of warrants under the hand of his honor the lieutenant-governor; and whereas it has been shown to the house, through the select standing committee in public accounts, that on the 16th April, 11th and 20th of June last sums of money were paid out of the treasury without the above authority, and in the absence, also, of legislative authority; be it therefore resolved, that this house condemns the government for ignoring statutory enactments which are provided for the safeguard of the public funds, and considers the conduct of the government in this matter both irregular and illegal.

The hon. mover said that this resolution was brought forward because of the irregularities which had been discovered by the public accounts committee. A sum had been issued without a warrant, and although it was but $737.95, it might be $7,000, and there was no telling where such illegal issuance of money would end; $70,000 was spent in this illegal way. The statutes provided for a certain course to be followed, and if this was not strictly carried out, they might as well burn their statutes. [The hon. gentleman read the reports of the public accounts committee of the 25th March, dealing with the matter of issuing the amount out of the treasury without the authority of the warrant for the same.] The majority report differed from the minority only in the fact that they endeavored to provide an excuse for the government, though they knew it was illegal. The matter might be considered a government crime, and it was but right that the house should condemn them for their illegal action.

Hon. Mr. Robson said that there was little required to be said on the matter. Great stress was laid on the fact of the provision contained in Sec. 62 of the Constitution Act, which provided that no payments should be made out of the treasury without first having the authority of the governor's warrant. He granted that the payment was an irregular one, but it was done for the purpose of meeting an exigency, and was not without precedent. The payments were made for the purpose of obtaining necessary data in connection with the proposed Shuswap and Okanagan railway in the interests of the country. All information which had previously been placed before the