

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Third Session of the Seventh Parliament.
FOURTEENTH DAY.

MONDAY, March 1.
Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock.

Prayers by Rev. W. Leslie Clay.

Mr. Booth presented the following petition of the private bill committee: That the standing orders have been complied with in connection with the following petitions: 24. Petition of the Grand Forks Water Power and Light Co., Ltd.; 36. Petition of Fort Steele and Golden railway petition of Stickeen and Teslin Lake railway, except in so far as petition asks for power to build a branch line to Desse Lake.

"With reference to the petition of the Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Co. (Foreign), presented to the house on Feb. 25, your committee beg to report that after hearing the statement of Paris Ivan Packard, the agent for the said company, as to the cause which prevented the company complying with the standing orders, it is of opinion that the standing orders should be suspended so as to admit of the petition referred to in said petition being presented, and to be recommended the same accordingly."

The report was received.
Mr. Booth presented a report of the private bill committee stating that the standing orders had not been complied with in connection with the petition of the Bedlington & Nelson Railway Co., and the petition of Chester Glass.

Mr. Helmecken moved, seconded by Dr. Walkem, that: Whereas this house learns with much regret that the government of the United States of America intend to extend the alien labor law containing a provision known as the "Corliss Amendment,"

in violation to the best interests of labor and whereas it is within the power of this legislature to pass measures relating to the tenure of land and the regulation of labor, and more particularly affecting the citizens of the United States of America, which may result in disturbing the harmonious relations at present existing between the loyal subjects of Her Most Gracious Queen Victoria and the citizens of the United States of America; And whereas it is undesirable to pass any such laws, although it will be necessary, so far as lies within the power of this legislature, to protect the citizens of this province in the event of such labor laws being enacted; Be it therefore resolved, that a resolution be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to communicate with the government of the Dominion of Canada, urging upon that government the desirability of making such representations to the President of the United States of America as will prevent the passage of said alien labor laws, and to render protective measures by this legislature unnecessary."

Mr. Helmecken moved, seconded by Dr. Walkem, that: Whereas the resolution Mr. Helmecken did not see that any resolution might be taken, though some people might think it was premature until it was seen what action the President of the United States took on the subject of labor. However, the resolution proposed would strengthen the hands of the Dominion government, and he believed in showing the powers that are alive to the rights of our people. In addition to this it would bring before the Dominion government the petition which the province occupies under the B. N. A. Act. This position was laid down clearly in a judgment by the Privy Council quoted by Mr. Justice Walkem in the recent decision on the Small Debts Act.

"Their lordships," the judgment proceeded, "do not think it necessary to examine in minute detail the provisions of the Act of 1867, which nowhere profess to curtail in any respect the rights and privileges of the Crown, or to disturb the relations between the Sovereign and the provinces. The object of the act was to neither to weld the provinces into one nor to subordinate provincial governments to a central authority, but to create a federal government (in which they should all be represented) created with the exclusive administration of the affairs in which they had a common interest, each province maintaining its independence and autonomy. That object was accomplished by distributing, between the Dominion and provinces, all the powers, executive and legislative, and all public property and revenues which had previously belonged to the provinces; and that the Dominion government should be vested with such of those powers, property and revenues as were necessary for the performance of its constitutional functions, and that the remainder should be retained by the provinces for the purposes of provincial government."

Some time ago a Commission had been appointed, it was explained, to inquire into the affairs of the official administrator at Nanaimo. He (Dr. Walkem) claimed that the government had failed to provide a sufficient security or to enforce the law in relation to the money to the treasury. Dr. Walkem would ask leave to withdraw the resolution.

The leave was granted.
Mr. Helmecken moved, seconded by Dr. Walkem, for a return of the report of the securities stated by the Hon. the Provincial Secretary to have been deposited with the Hon. the Hon. Wm. A. Hume, 1895, and regularly renewed; the faithful performance of the duties of Official Administrators of the Estates of: Hon. Wm. A. Hume, 1895, page 87.

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had an apprenticeship that gave them an advantage at the start, but that the time had come when British Columbia could do without an American in the country. When the 'Ruckles' heard that Miss Davey had applied to purchase the 67 acres they laid claim to it on the ground that it had been by mistake omitted from their survey. A full investigation was made and the Ruckles claim found to be untenable, and that the 67 acres were public property. To Ruckles were paid by Davey \$100 for plowing done on six acres. That this decision met the views of all parties was shown by the fact that the Ruckles accepted \$100, in full of all demands in respect of this, and his receipt was on file at the lands and works department. All the papers in connection with this purchase could be inspected at the lands and works office, and there was no use, Hon. Mr. Martin had, in putting the country to the expense and trouble of compiling a return which when brought down could serve no purpose, as the matter was long since settled.

"To strike out of the balance of the resolution after the words 'United States of America' in line an insert in lieu thereof: 'And whereas it may be desirable to pass such laws as will protect the citizens of this province in the event of such Corliss amendment becoming operative; be it therefore resolved, that a resolution be presented to His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, praying him to communicate with the government of the Dominion of Canada, urging upon that government the desirability of making such representations to the President of the United States of America as will prevent the passage of said alien labor laws, and to render protective measures by this legislature unnecessary."

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Mr. Selin having heard the explanation withdrew his resolution temporarily.
Mr. Helmecken moved, seconded by Dr. Walkem, for a copy of the report of the Point Ellice bridge, which was presented to the house on the 25th day of May last, together with the reports, if any, made in connection therewith. He referred to the control of the government and any person for the government relating to the works of the Point Ellice bridge, which was presented to the house on the 25th day of May last, together with the reports, if any, made in connection therewith.

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Hon. Col. Baker replied: "The Hudson Bay Company held by letters patent, issued by Her Majesty, dated 15th January, 1849, the whole of Vancouver Island, together with all mines, royal etc. On 3rd April, 1867, the company conveyed the whole of Vancouver Island, together with all mines, royal etc., to Her Majesty all of Victoria city and all lands in Victoria district which had been sold by the company to individuals to reserve the mine royal and the right of entry for mining to the Crown." Hon. Mr. Eberts presented a return showing the number of certificates of title which have been issued in the land office since the Land Registry Act came into force by: Victoria, 20,972; Vancouver, 5,453; Westminster, 17,500; and Kamloops, 1,275. Certificates of independent title: Victoria, 525; Vancouver, 3; Westminster, 20,972; Vancouver, 5,453; Westminster, 17,500; and Kamloops, 1,275.

Hon. Mr. Martin presented the following return of the dues collected on the following in the different districts of the Land Office provided for in the Land Office Act of 1896: ROTALY COLLECTED ON CORROWD IN 1896. In Cassiar district, \$ 654 25; In Kootenay district, \$ 423 75; In West Kootenay district, \$ 278 30. Total, \$ 1,356 30.

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THE COLONIST. This famous Le Roi paid \$25,000 yesterday, and \$25,000 yesterday is promised at the end of the month. Last month a dividend of \$100 was paid.

LOCAL subscriptions to the Indian famine fund yesterday: John Brown, \$1; Miss D. Parsons, \$1; and Yuen Lung, \$10.

The meeting of the B.C. Coal, Petroleum & Mineral Association was held last night, when it was decided to hold a ball on Monday, March 22.

The inland revenue report of Victoria for the month of March was as follows: Sp. malt, \$1,233.75; tobacco, \$747.00, and \$211.57, making a total of \$2,192.32.

Among the companies of incorporation was given in the Gazette of the 27th inst. the names of the Troy Gold Mining Company, which was incorporated on the 27th inst. The company's mining is situated near Rossland.

Rev. J. B. Haslam, Barnabas church, officiated at the funeral of the late Philip Swann, who died on the 27th inst. Burial took place at the cemetery on the 28th inst. The funeral was held at 10 o'clock.

The annual meeting of the League of the Centennial of the Dominion of British Columbia was held last night. The following officers were elected: J. Harvey Hall, president; W. W. Hall, secretary; and F. W. Davey, treasurer.

The house, however, thought these changes were too radical to make and had been agreed with the delegates who had now left for home.

The bill was read a third time and passed. The Premier remarked that the Lieutenant-Governor would be asked to give his assent to the bill, so that it could be put in operation as promptly as possible.

Mr. Rogers moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Fields, Ltd., Act, 1896. The bill simply renames the company to the power of the company to change or amend its articles of incorporation, and the house then adjourned.

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