

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Now that the above-named bill has passed its second reading we believe it to be the duty of the Times to point out to those who are opposing it, and no doubt will yet do their best to kill it, what a tremendous responsibility will rest upon them if they succeed in their object. Not only the interests of Vancouver Island, but the ultimate welfare of the whole province, demand that this bill, with the amendments proposed to be made by the government in committee, shall become law.

We need not deal with that part of the question relating to the safety of miners at all; it has already been established beyond cavil that the lives of workers underground are not as safe when Chinamen are employed as they are when white men are the only operatives. The Wellington company admitted that when they entered into an agreement with the New Vancouver Company after the great disaster to thereafter bar Chinamen from underground. The laws of Great Britain recognize the fact that intelligence and ability on the part of the operatives to read the rules are essential to the safety not only of the workers, but of property, and hence insists that boys before taking their places in the pits shall have reached a certain standard of education. The strictness of the law in Britain in this respect is the best of evidence that looseness in the regulations here are to be deprecated.

The most extraordinary argument advanced against the Coal Mines Regulation bill was that of Mr. Prentice when he said if the measure became law it would have the effect of turning fifteen hundred Chinamen loose on the province. The member for East Lillooet apparently could see what an evil the presence of fifteen hundred loose Chinamen would be likely to prove, but was not prepared to admit that the same number of congregated coolies could be a source of anything but good. The general view is quite the contrary. The question is, would it be a benefit to the towns where these Chinamen now are, (there are probably not over one-third of fifteen hundred working underground in coal mines) and to the whole province if an equal number of white men were to take their places?

A special dispatch from Nelson to the Times says that the closing down of the Hal Mines at Nelson is in pursuance of a course decided on at a meeting of the shareholders in December. The entire staff, the dispatch states, have been discharged, and it is said a radical change in the conduct of the mines and smelter will be inaugurated. The cessation of operations in the War Eagle, Centre Star and Le Roi properties at Rossland is the result of a decision to install improved plants in these mines, some of the machinery originally put in proving defective. The reports sent out that all these properties had been closed down as a result of the eight hour law seem to have been sent out for political purposes.

EVERYBODY IS COUGHING. Except those who use Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine. It loosens the tightness in the chest, stops the cough, allays the inflammation, heals the soreness and promptly cures all sorts of coughs and colds, bronchitis, croup, asthma, and sore throat. It is found in nine-tenths of the homes of this country. 25 cents a bottle. Family size 50 cents.

COMOX DISTRICT. (Special Correspondence of the Times.) An unusually sharp frost was experienced throughout the district this week, and about four inches of snow fell. A thaw succeeded, and now we have six inches of sleet and mud. It is reported that the Loan Society is calling for tenders for their property. The property is extensive, some twenty houses being erected on the lots. The majority question is settled at last, James Carshaw, being duly qualified, has taken his seat as chief magistrate. James Miller, of Comox, left on Friday morning for one of the recruiting stations, and if he passes the medical examination, will be the second Comox boy in the Transvaal. The ladies of Trinity church gave a successful entertainment in aid of church funds on Tuesday evening. On Tuesday a deputation, representing the Italian citizens of Cumberland and Union, presented Rev. J. A. Durand with a handsome purse in token of their esteem, and expressed their deep regret at his departure. He left on Friday morning en route to Quebec, where he will take charge of an extensive parish. R. B. Anderson has sold out his plumbing business to T. White & Co. The tunnel at the Union copper mine has been worked into the mountain quite a distance. Good ore has been taken out, and it is confidently hoped that next season will see extensive operations in copper mining around this section. Messrs. G. G. McDonald and others, of Comox, are negotiating for the sale of their copper interests on Texada to New York capitalists.

HARRING ON HIS HONOR. The Colonel says: "However reluctant the Lieutenant-Governor may be to again take the conspicuous part on the political stage which on a former occasion brought notoriety such as cannot have been pleasing to His Honor, the circumstances of the present case are such that action on his part seems to be imperative. The Semlin government is his creation; it springs from no constitutional procedure, is governed by no constitutional precedent, and recognizes no code of political honor." Our esteemed contemporary is incensed because

the Lieut.-Governor ignores its appeals to turn out the present government and install one after its own heart, so it resorts to its old tactics and attacks His Honor as above. It will be observed that it charges that the Semlin government is not of the people, but is the creation of the Governor himself, therefore it came into power unconstitutionally, and therefore brought Her Majesty's representative into notoriety. Now we think it will be generally admitted that if anything could be classified under the head of notorious during that memorable crisis it was the conduct of certain members of the late Turner administration. Defeated at the polls, they were determined to remain in power if possible, and probably would have been allowed to continue in office until defeated in the House but for an occurrence which convinced the Lieut.-Governor that it was time for a change, and they were ignominiously kicked out. No reasonable man questions the righteousness of the Lieut.-Governor's action, and, indeed, our contemporary itself practically admitted the justness of his course shortly after by referring to Mr. Turner as a political corpse. But circumstances have changed; the "unknown" who was to occupy Mr. Turner's shoes has not convinced the opposition members that he was the political Moses he thought himself, and so the evacuated position is re-occupied and the heavy artillery once more turned on the Lieut.-Governor. No doubt the smaller opposition guns will open up in the direction of their leader's fire, and after awhile we shall have the old story that neither the Colonel nor the opposition leaders are responsible for the disreputable attacks.

The annual public hospital meeting was held on Jan. 15th. A good number of the citizens were present. Rev. S. A. Osterhout presided. The seventh annual report was presented by Dr. Bolton. The five retiring directors, Mr. J. M. L. Alexander, S. M. Mr. C. W. D. Cliford, M. P. F. Rev. T. Crosby, Mr. G. N. Heaton, and A. E. Bolton, D. J. M., were re-elected for a term of three years. At a subsequent meeting of the directors the following officers were elected for the year: President, Mr. J. M. L. Alexander, government agent; 1st vice-president, Mr. A. C. Murray; 2nd vice-president, Mr. Gordon Lockerby; secretary-treasurer, Dr. A. E. Bolton. The following is an abstract of Dr. Bolton's report: Patients in Jan. 1st, 7; admitted during year, 71; total cared for, 78. Patients discharged during year, 68; died, 3; in Dec. 31st, 7-78. Admitted, medical cases, 35; surgical, 33; obstetrical, 8-71. Admitted, whites, 8; Indians, 63-71. Residence of patients, Port Simpson, 27; Upper Skeena, 10; Lower Skeena, 4; Q. C. Islands, 6; Neas, 2; Kitamaat, 6; Kitlope, 3; Hartley Bay, 5; Lower Inlet, 1; China Hat, 1; Kitahatia, 2; Victoria, 1; Alaska, 1. Surgical operations under general anaesthesia, 21. Cause of death, pulmonary phthisis, 1; intestinal tuberculosis, 1; tubercular peritonitis, 1. Average number of patients at one time, 6.54; average stay of each patient, 33 days; total days' stay of patients, 2,300. Daily cost per patient, 96 cents.

Table with columns: Maintenance, Expenditure, Income. Rows include Food, Fuel, Drugs, Instruments, Charwomen, Charities, Nurses' salaries, Building, Furniture, Insurance, Provincial government, Dominion government, etc.

The new building is now completed at a total cost of \$1,223, and is occupied by the surgeon and his family. The main building has been re-arranged, giving more accommodation for patients and nurses, with improvements for patients and nurses, and laundry. Another room has been added to the staff, who are still housed in the old building. It is contemplated to build a new building for the hospital, and the relief of the existing department, the nurses have been given the benefit of the new building. The new building is now completed at a total cost of \$1,223, and is occupied by the surgeon and his family. The main building has been re-arranged, giving more accommodation for patients and nurses, with improvements for patients and nurses, and laundry. Another room has been added to the staff, who are still housed in the old building. It is contemplated to build a new building for the hospital, and the relief of the existing department, the nurses have been given the benefit of the new building.

FOR THE BABIES. There is no better medicine for the babies than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Its pleasant taste and prompt and effective cures make it a favorite with mothers and small children. It quickly cures their coughs and colds, preventing pneumonia or other serious consequences. It also cures croup and has been used in tens of thousands of cases without a single failure so far as we have heard. It not only cures croup, but it clears up the system, and cures the coughs and colds, and prevents the attack. In cases of whooping cough it liquefies the tough mucus, making it easier to expectorate, and lessens the severity and frequency of the paroxysms of coughing, thus depriving that disease of all dangerous consequences. For sale by Henderson Bros., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

NOTES FROM ALBERNI. (Special Correspondence of the Times.) A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 7th, regarding the proposal to bring water into Alberni from one of the numerous creeks in the vicinity. A capitalist of Victoria has offered to provide the necessary capital and to start building a reservoir and laying pipes as soon as the people of Alberni are willing. His proposal is a most reasonable one, and Alberni may hope to see "water laid on" in the coming summer. The district health officer was in attendance, and a committee was formed of Messrs. Watson, M. D. (health officer), J. Thomson and G. Forrest, to look into the matter and report at a future meeting. It was found on looking up the statistics that the forming of a water company in a village gave the company, as far as a municipality was concerned, all the rights of a municipality.

Four men went down to Henderson lake yesterday to work on the Lake Shore claim. Work on the Lake Shore claim on the opposite side of the lake is, it is understood, to be started shortly. A masked fancy dress ball is advertised for Thursday, the 22nd.

Constipation, Headache, Biliousness, Heartburn, Indigestion, Dizziness, Indicate that your liver is out of order. The best medicine to rouse the liver and cure all these ills, is found in

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. Sold by all medicine dealers. 25 cents.

Provincial Legislature

Second Reading of the Local Mines Regulation Bill Occupies the House.

Carried at Midnight-Opposition "Patriotism" Again Freely on Exhibition.

Mr. Joseph Martia's Long-Delayed Motion on Government's Majority Dis-cussed.

Amusing Passages Between Members-Bills of Sale and Supreme Court Bills.

Victoria, Feb. 12th.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:15 p.m. Prayers by the Rev. W. Leslie Clay. There was a large attendance of the general public in the galleries.

Petitions. Mr. Macpherson presented petitions from the barbers of Vancouver, and from Geo. Bartley and others of Vancouver, all concerning the Overseas Incorporation Act. Col. Baker presented a petition from the people of Southeast Kootenay in favor of the eight-hour law. Received amid government applause.

Reports. Mr. Green, for the private bills committee, reported, applying for a further extension of time. Rules suspended and the report received.

Returns. The Premier presented a return of correspondence called for by Mr. E. Smith, regarding W. J. Ledingham. Also a return relating to the seizure of Mr. Ellis's cattle in Pentelton district.

Motions. Col. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Turner, That a select committee, composed of Messrs. A. W. Smith, Green, Prentice, Wells and the mover, be appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the cancellation of the pre-emption claim of Thomas Stewart at Log Cabin, with power to call for persons and all documents and correspondence bearing on the subject, examine witnesses, and report to this House. Carried.

The Companies Bill. On the motion of Hon. Mr. Henderson the report on the Companies bill was adopted.

Coal Mines Regulation. Mr. Helmcken opened the adjourned debate on the Coal Mines Regulation bill. He contended that it was nowhere laid down that the province cannot make any regulations for the governance of coal mines. There was a distinction between absolute prohibition and a regulation compelling workers to understand the printed rules. The province had the right to regulate but not to prohibit. He hoped the government would be able to produce a bill that would meet with general acceptance. The object of this bill was the protection of life. (Applause.) Mr. Helmcken took exception to the statement made by Mr. McPhillips regarding Scotch miners who could not read English.

Mr. McPhillips declared he had said hundreds, not thousands, of Scotchmen. He considered the education of the Scots very high, and he would be the last person to make disparaging reflections upon them. He had received his own education in Scotch colleges, and Scotch professors, and he was only too happy to have the opportunity to express his indebtedness to and high appreciation of Scotch education. (Applause.) Mr. Helmcken, resuming, said he too had received part of his education under Scotch auspices, and he could speak in the highest terms thereof. He hoped that the government would see to it that a clause dealing with abandoned mines was inserted in this bill.

Mr. Neill proposed to support this bill very heartily because he considered it a general advantage to the province and that it tended to reduce the risk to coal miners. He thought the miner had quite a sufficient number of hardships already to contend against without being exposed to the ignorance of a class of laborers who are considered to be so dangerous. This special measure had to be taken with regard to them. Going on to speak of the influx of the Chinese, Mr. Neill said the House might yet see a Chinese representative in this House, in close personal contact, as they are now in close political sympathy with some members of the honorable gentlemen opposite. (Laughter and cries of "Never.") These Oriental people were being naturalized in great numbers, and he thought it might be a possibility to see a representative of that race in this House if steps were not now taken to stop their progress. Mr. Neill caused some amusement by a sarcastic allusion to the paucity of logic and facts in the speech of the gentleman who had preceded him in the debate, and he ridiculed Mr. Helmcken's affection for precedents, that gentlemen having gone back even so far as Magna Charta. But he held, if the gentleman, he would find that interesting document drawn up to safeguard were very few and very slight compared with the complex interests of the present time. The speaker thought it was dangerous to allow this cancerous growth of Chinese immigration and labor to go on without attempting to reduce the risk to coal miners. He did not see how anyone could or would wish to entrust anything to persons who have no more than the intelligence of the average Oriental coolie as we know him in this country. He went on to quote from

Various authorities, and caused no little amusement by recommending his predecessor in the debate to study up Hallam, Froissart and other writers of and on the middle ages. Touching upon Mr. McPhillips's statement regarding education in the British army, Mr. Neill said that at least in Canada no recruit is taken who cannot read and write. It was true where the British army would take a promising young man who cannot do either, but he is at once put upon the books for immediate instruction. The British army does not allow its men to continue unlettered if it can help it. He quoted from General Orders for 1884, pointing out that since that time there had been many improvements. Mr. McPhillips's knowledge of Scotland seemed to him to be as faulty and indefinite as his knowledge of Heaven (laughter), and from what he could judge it would take the hon. gentleman a long time to qualify as an authority on either. (Laughter.) Mr. McPhillips said that what the member for Alberni had just said did not affect him in the least, but he ought to use proper language.

Mr. Neill withdrew the statement as far as it related to Heaven, but insisted the hon. member did not know much about Scotland. He had listened to the spleen of the hon. gentleman with the hope of picking up some flosculum of logic and some jargon of fact in that

Flood of Eloquence, but in vain; it was possible that the hon. gentleman in creating that ocean of verbiage had forgotten the little rivulet of fact concerning matters educational in Scotland? He took strong exception to the assertion that there were thousands of people in Scotland who did not understand English. The vast majority of the Scottish people were utterly ignorant of the Gaelic language. Except in the very remote parts of the Highlands there were no people in Scotland who did not use and understand English. There has been a compulsory system of education in the kingdom for thirty years, and it was impossible for anybody to escape. Mr. Neill continued on this line at considerable length, quoting authorities and illustrating his points with much wit, to the evident enjoyment of the House. He had been amused at Mr. McPhillips's notions of Scotch geography, and said that Edinburgh and Aberdeen were only sixty miles apart; if he could get the hon. gentleman to fetch his statements as close as sixty miles from the facts he would be quite satisfied. (Laughter.) Summing up the discussion, he said that it was a slander upon the intelligence of the white people of this province to insinuate, as they did who argued against this bill, that

Our Intelligence was inferior to that of Chinese. He then traversed Mr. McPhillips's reasons for opposing the bill, and concluded by praying Heaven to protect this province from such hypocritical protection as the hon. gentleman opposite desired to give.

Mr. McPhillips returned a general denial to the majority of the statements made by Mr. Neill. Mr. Prentice, the hon. member for Alberni, if seemed to him, had talked on nearly every house for the last hour, except the Coal Mines Regulation bill. (Laughter.) He had insinuated that this bill was being opposed in the House because it was intended to protect the rights of white working men, but that member knew the bill had not been brought into the House for that purpose. He considered this bill a bad one in every particular, and one that ought not to pass. First let them admit that the Chinese are not a desirable class; on that point they were all pretty well agreed. The bill should be the effect of this particular, and one that ought not to pass. First let them admit that the Chinese are not a desirable class; on that point they were all pretty well agreed. The bill should be the effect of this particular, and one that ought not to pass.

Clearly Ultra Vires. Of this province. The province had no right to draw legislation of this kind; the courts had so decided. There is a way to keep Chinese out of the province, but that was by standing shoulder to shoulder and bringing every legitimate influence to bear on the Dominion government to induce them to enact legislation that would have the effect of keeping Chinese away from this province. Section 3 was a hit at men who were good, honest, hard working men, who only by accident cannot read and write. The House knew perfectly well that the intention of this bill was to keep Chinese out of the mines, but its effect would be to exclude many worthy white miners, and was going to sit in that House and legislate against them? He would vote against this bill because, first, it was ultra vires; second, because it was not going to have the desired effect, as it would not keep a single Chinese out of the province; and third, because it strikes at men who are honest, hard working men, but have the misfortune not to be educated. This was a very important matter, and he moved the adjournment of the debate for ten days. The motion was lost by a division of 17 to 18.

Mr. Deane proposed to vote for the bill. He represented a district where there were no coal mines, and perhaps he was not so particularly concerned in the bill as some of the members who represented coal mining districts. Yet in his district there were many large coal bearing areas which were being developed at an early date, therefore he was interested in all that pertained to the coal mining industry in this province. He looked upon this bill introduced in all sincerity to protect the lives of the men engaged in it.

A Very Dangerous Occupation. Some of the opposition speakers had doubted the motives which led to the introduction of this bill, and state that this is a subterfuge to do indirectly what we are afraid to do directly. It is really taking sides in a dispute between two companies. He would not be a party to any such thing, but he was convinced this legislation was fair and in the interest of the people of the province, and specially put forward to safe-

guard the lives and limbs of the employees of the underground workings of mines, and exclude an undesirable class of workers therefrom. The opposition had only weakened their arguments by indulging in the statements they had made. He had carefully followed the arguments of Mr. McPhillips in presenting his amendment, but he could not see where the connection between what he said and section 3 came in. He believed Mr. McPhillips was entirely wrong in his premises. Mr. Deane then compared the conditions here and in Great Britain, and pointed out the difference between them. In Great Britain the legislation had all been on the lines of protecting the lives and limbs of the workers. Besides, the British miners were native born and reared in the business from infancy almost, which was very different from the conditions here. The British miners were governed by stringent regulations, but in British Columbia we find the most dangerous element of labor getting into the mines, and practically no progress had heretofore been made in the attempt to eliminate that dangerous element. Hence it was necessary to lose no further time in legislation so that end. It was necessary now for the protection of the underground to enforce this legislation in the spirit in which it was framed. In regard to the

Powers of the Inspector, he had no difficulty in comprehending the language of the section, and he thought it was a very necessary section. Mr. Deane pointed out occasions where "boss" might require prompt aid from the men in case of danger, and when it would be very awkward to have to deal with a squabbling ignorant Chinese. One of the latter class were a source of danger in the mines, to themselves and their fellow workers. It would not do to put off this matter till after some terrible accident; the time to act was now. If such catastrophe as he had hinted at did occur there would be an outcry throughout the province blaming the government for not seeing to it sooner. This province would not be far wrong in following the example of the United Kingdom in regulating the coal mine. A knowledge of English was necessary for the intelligent doing of the work required in the mines, and it was not a reasonable inference that the government in posting up notices at the mines did not want them read. It was conclusive evidence to him that the government intended that those rules should be read and understood that the notices should be simply posted up in a conspicuous place. The fact that a very large number of Chinese were employed underground showed that a very large number of capable white miners were being kept out of work. This bill would not in his opinion, drive from our mines any very large number of white miners, as the opposition had contended. He had resided a very long time in the coal mining districts, and he could speak from practical experience. At Northfield there was a large number of

Italians and Belgians, who could not understand the English language, yet he thought that most of those foreigners would be able to comply with the regulations of this bill, which was drawn up for the protection of the lives. These men were welcome to come here and work in our mines, and all we asked of them was that they be able to read in our language certain rules designed for their special protection. This was not a very onerous condition to place upon any foreigner, and he did not think it would drive many of them away. But even if it should, it was better that the great majority should be protected; it would be unwise to withhold legislation of such a character. Mr. Deane then drew attention to the fact that French-Canadian are debarred from practice at the bar of this province unless they can show certain language qualifications, and the only argument for this bill here can offer as to why they maintain a preserve is that those rules serve to protect the province from undesirable practitioners. How much more should the men engaged in a most arduous and dangerous occupation be protected from an undesirable class of workers? Let them ask no more than is accorded to the lawyers and doctors of the province. If the unscrupulous lawyer, the crooked lawyer, if one could conceive of such a being-(laughter)-came here he would not be able to do such damage before he would be debarred, but Chinamen not able to understand the instructions of the boss, and who are

jeopardizing the lives of all in the mines by their ignorance, are permitted to go to work. No French-Canadian are allowed to come in here to practice medicine or law till he has fully satisfied the Medical or the Law Association. Why should Chinamen enjoy immunity from examination as to their qualifications? This examination is required of our trades and professions. The C. P. R. demanded a very high standard of education and intelligence from its engine drivers and other employees. There was probably no other company in the world that had a more efficient or intelligent staff. He thought the country would thoroughly endorse and approve of legislation on these lines. He would like to know where there was any case on record where a Chinaman or Japanese rushed to the pit head and volunteered to go to the rescue of endangered comrades or to protect his employer's property. He had been told that when these people are employed underground they will rush out of the mine to save their own lives and will not go back. It seemed to him only reasonable that men who were engaged in a dangerous occupation should be able to read and understand the rules and regulations drawn up for their benefit.

Col. Baker did not think the bill a statesmanlike one. In his district the workmen were well content with their lot, and if this bill passed it would affect them very badly. Some of them are Welshmen, and they will be turned out by this bill. Many of the miners in the Old Country can neither read or write, but are just as competent miners as any other.

Mr. Brydon said the discussion had wandered far afield. The debates had not confirmed themselves in any way to the bill. Mention had been made of the Chinamen and Japanese, but on looking into the bill he had found no reference to either. When Chinese were first introduced into the mines he was under-manager of the Vancouver Coal Com-

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