these hon. members were saying that the country, instead of going ahead, was going behind!

It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

EVENING SESSION.

The Speaker took the chair at 7.30 o'clock.

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

HON. MR. DAVIE resumed the debate on the second reading of the New Parliament Buildings bill. He said that when the House had risen he had been showing that in the past few years the Province had been making a steady and material advancement in its trade, and he would now say, what all hon. members knew to be a fact, that the Province had bright prospects ahead. The hon. member for West Kootenay (Mr. Kellie) had not at all exaggerated the case when he spoke of the brilliant prospects of Kootenay. He (Mr. Davie) believed that progress would be general in all of the country, and the prospects of material development ahead were such as to warrant the statement that the Province of British Columbia was in a better position to undertake these public works now than any of the other provinces of the Dominion had been when their parliament buildings were erected. In course of the debate one hon. member had spoken of stagnation and want of employment for workingmen. While he denied that there was any great amount of actual distress existing, the erection of the buildings would spread money where it was wanted, and furnish employment. The architect had his home in British Columbia, the stone was to be quarried here, the brick made here, the lumber would be of native wood, and the contractor and workmen would be people in the Province. The fact was that everything came from within, except the money, which came from abroad, and was what was wanted, and yet it was found that an hon. member of this House, who claimed to be prominent in labor circles as an agitator, had said he was going to vote against the proposed expenditure. How that hon. member (Mr. Keith) could do this consistently with his principles, he (Mr. Davie) could not understand. Men like these labor agitators try to make the laboring men believe that their wants are to be relieved by agitation, but when a practical measure like the present one was brought forward, they announce their intention to vote against it. Why, by one successful financial operation the Government of the Province had been able to save every year the sum of $24,000, which would almost pay the interest and sinking fund on the amount that was needed for the new buildings. The hon. member for New Westminster City (Mr. Brown) had advocated going to the country before passing the bill. That hon. member had stated that the Government had admitted that the Government did not represent the country, because in the Speech from the Throne there was a redistribution bill promised. But because that statement was made in the Speech it by no means implied that the House did not represent the country. If this House was not competent to deal with the parliament buildings how was it competent to deal with the more important measure which members opposite were so anxious for, that of redistribution itself? Whilst it would be the aim of the redistribution bill to provide a more convenient system of representation? the present House, he claimed, was thoroughly representative of the country. We have been told that the Government and their supporters represented the minority. Where hon. members who made that statement got their figures from he did not know, and he did not think they knew themselves, for at the last general election there were some 19,000 votes cast in all. Of these the Opposition members got some 5,000, and the Independents some 4,000, and the Government the remainder, or more than both Opposition and Independent combined. And when the fact was taken into consideration that the Independents were returned for the purpose of giving their support to the Government except on some matters of minor importance it would be seen that the House was, by an overwhelming majority, representative of the country. He was very much amused indeed at the conduct of some of the hon. gentlemen opposite. When they wanted to show that the country was not represented by the House they made the population between 80,000 and 100,000, but when they wanted to show how great a tax the new buildings were going to be on the people that was another matter altogether, and to suit their own convenience and to show the unfair burden one hon. member (Mr. Semlin) quoted the population at 40,000. He agreed with the hon. leader of the Opposition in deprecating the sectional views expressed by some hon. gentlemen. The spirit that should be showed by all hon. members of the House was that exhibited by the hon. members for Lillooet and West Kootenay (Messrs. Smith and Kellie), who, all honor to them, had shown that they were above above any such motives. He (Mr. Davie) could not too strongly deprecate the spirit which had been shown by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Brown) and the member for Yale (Mr. Semlin). He thought that the large majority by which this motion would evidently be carried was a fair indication of its popularity throughout the country. (Applause.)

MR. COTTON agreed with the hon. Attorney-General that the Independent members of the House had been elected for the purpose of giving the Government fair play, and he claimed this had been done, challenging any hon. gentleman to say otherwise. But after having done this, the Independents had not been fairly treated by the Government. Here was a bill brought down, a most important measure, involving as it did the expenditure in one structure of the whole of one year's revenue of the Province, less the subsidies, and why was there not some more fair method of bringing it down? Why was it not put in the estimates so that the House could have had some control of the expenditure? He was surprised at the course that had been pursued, but since the debate had opened he had made up his mind that the Government had intended to try to carry out this work, and had not made up their minds why they were doing it. The whole debate had been to him a series of surprises. In the first place, the hon. Finance Minister spoke for only six minutes, dealing in that length of time with a proposition to expend $600,000, or in other words, that hon. gentleman has been willing to vote away the public funds at the rate of $100,000 per minute. (Laughter.) He must say that he admired the sunny jauntiness and youthful hope of the hon. Minister. After the Minister of Finance, had come the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, who boldly declared that the buildings were needed for the public convenience and that the question of the Capital had nothing whatever to do with them. The Chief Commissioner had been followed by the Provincial Secretary, who acknowledged, without hesitation, that the question of the Capital was the one that was at the very bottom of the proposition, and finally there came along the hon. Premier, who had yet another idea, and found in the new buildings movement nothing more nor less than a gigantic system of out-door relief. What were hon. members of the House who opposed this bill to think? What did it mean? For his own part there was only one conclusion that he could come to, and that was that there were two reasons for the measure—one the ostensible and the other the real. (Hear, hear.) The ostensible reason was the one put forward by the Chief Commissioner, who had dilated on the great economy there would be in having the new buildings, and the great benefits that were to be derived from the increased accommodation. What would the erection of the new buildings as proposed mean? Why simply that the real property tax of the Province would be increased by one-third. People found it hard enough now to pay their taxes, and in case they were increased in the ratio of $4 to $3, how much harder it would be. He figured that $90,000 to $100,000 would have to be added to the loan forthwith for expenses in connection with it. Then when the buildings were put up they could not be maintained and looked after in the way of attendants and officials for anything like the amount required for the present ones, but would require many thousand dollars to be spent on them from time to time. The result would be that the personal property tax would be increased by one-half. Did the circumstances of the country justify this? He did not think so. It had been said over and over again in the debate that the present buildings required a large amount of money to be spent annually to keep them in repair. Where did this money come from? The House did not know anything about it, for on looking over the estimates all that he found down for the purpose of repairs was $1,000. Last year there had been a sum of $75,000 voted for the erection of a new registry office, and the hon. Chief Commissioner had then said when this item was being discussed in supply that this would enable the present requirements of the departments to be filled. If it was a year ago in the best interests of the country that a registry office should have been built in the way that was proposed by the Chief Commissioner, what had happened to make it necessary to have the change proposed? Why this change of front? Instead of the Government being surprised at the Independents not jumping at the proposition, they ought to have been willing to give more explanation. He had to congratulate the gallant Provincial Secretary on the sudden flank movement he had made when he so suddenly changed front on the Chief Commissioner and told the House that what the Chief Commissioner had said was not correct, but, on the contrary, the real reason for the bill was that it would for all time to come secure the Capital for Victoria. The Chief Commissioner had protested against the question of the Capital being mixed up in the discussion at all, the hon. Provincial Secretary had insisted upon it being introduced, and what was the House to think? The Independents would not be opposed so much to the expenditure of such a large amount of money if it was to be of general benefit to the Province, but how was the expenditure of $600,000 in Victoria going to help the whole of the Province when there were in all quarters such pressing and crying needs. If the bill was for the purpose the Provincial Secretary had claimed it was, to anchor the Capital, it was simply spending so much of the people's money to baulk the wishes of the people themselves as they might be expressed at a future time. And this being the case, he wondered that any man of ordinary common sense should attempt to defend its principle. What was the necessity for anchoring the Capital? When anything was anchored it was because it was expected to blow away if it was not anchored. Was that not an admission that there was a growing feeling in favor of a change? It was a case of taking the people's money to defeat the people's wishes, and that was what he wanted to be understood by the people of the Province. The hon. Premier seemed to think that the work to be carried on under the bill would do much good to the Province in relieving distress, etc. If that was the object of spending the money why not pour it out all over the Province, and not deal it out in this back-handed way? Did the House think that the farmers of New Westminster District would approve of the expenditure of a large sum of money for a pile of mortar and stone when they at the same time had to look at their produce rotting on the ground because they had not and could not get a road to take it out to a market? Did the House think that the expenditure would be approved by the miners of Cariboo and of Kootenay who wanted assistance in building trails that would develop the country, and could not get it? What good, he would like to know, would it do these men years hence, when they had grown old and sick with hope deferred, and were obliged to come down here to the Destitute Home and give up the farms and the mines for which they had worked so hard—what good would it do to these men? Would the evening of their days be softened and sweetened by coming over here and looking at the magnificent pile that had been built with the money that should have been spent to help them when they were struggling? No, he did not think so, and these men would then, as the House should now, condemn the Government which was proposing to act so unwisely. He condemned the manner in which the bill had been brought down to the House. For the Government he could not be so much surprised, as they were only following out their policy of appropriations; but when he saw the honorable leader of the Opposition swallowing the bill whole, even though he made a wry face, he (Mr. Cotton) was very much surprised indeed, and he would go further and would say that in future he would be chary indeed of being found in that hon. gentleman's company. (Laughter and cries of Oh! Oh!) When hon. members looked back for only two years and recalled the stand which the hon. leader of the Opposition had taken on two important measures which were before the House, the Loan Act of 1891 and the Crofter bill, they would see that hand in hand the leader of the Opposition and the Independents had opposed the granting of so much power as was asked to the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council, and yet when a measure of the importance and magnitude of the present one came down the hon. gentleman had reversed his whole position. He had been sorry to see the hon. gentleman take the stand he did, for it was clear positive proof that he had allowed his local feelings to overshadow his judgment and to take away that Provincial view which he generally took of such matters. He had been surprised at the lightness of heart with which the hon. Premier had spoken about borrowing money. What would be the result if this policy was to be maintained for ten years only? Simply that, rich as was British Columbia and magnificent as were its resources, its credit would be in the same position on the money markets of [illegible] world as the Australian Colonies, who [illegible] their credit to the ground by o[illegible] borrowing. He was afraid the hon. Pre[illegible] the late Premier of Qu[illegible] his model; and w[illegible] Columbia had not [illegible] the Holy City [illegible]

was evidently looking in the same direction as Mercier had travelled in. He wished it understood that there was no sectionalism in the opposition of hon. members of the House to this bill. He would repeat what he had already taken occasion to say, and that was that he had no desire to see the Capital removed from Victoria; and when he said that he said it as the representative of almost the entire people of the Mainland. (Hear, hear.) The time would probably come in the course of a few years when the business of the Province would have increased to such an extent that the expenditure of a reasonable sum for large buildings would be justified, but at present there was nothing for fair-minded members of the House to do but to oppose such a proposition. He would promise that if the Government would defer this matter to a more convenient season, that it would then have his hearty support, and he was sure would be unanimously supported. In the meantime if the credit of the country was good enough to borrow and not hurt the Province financially, he would support a proposition to borrow this much money to be spent in reproductive public works. In concluding he said all that the Independents desired was fairness and justice, and they could not support this measure because it was neither right nor fair, nor in the best interests of the Province.

HON. MR. POOLEY, continuing the debate, said that he had not intended to take up the time of the House, but was compelled to do so after the speech of the hon. member who had just sat down, for that gentleman had made a great many statements which were not such as would be borne out by the facts. The gentleman had declared against all sectional feeling, had denounced such an idea, had repudiated even the very suspicion of it, and yet one of the principal arguments he had used, was one that was sectionalism itself, pure and simple, nothing more or less. What was the object, the hon. member asked, of putting up these handsome buildings? And then he answered it by saying that the Times says that the hon. Premier said it was for the purpose of anchoring the Capital at Victoria, and then he went on to argue from this, and tell the House that it was an indication of a growing fear that the Capital would be removed. And a little further on in his speech that hon. member had said that in a few years, if the Government would defer this matter, he would assist in carrying it to a successful conclusion, but in the meantime he wanted it put off to a more convenient season. How could hon. members of the House, he (Mr. Pooley) would like to know, reconcile these two statements? Either one or the other one of them was incorrect. Which one, he left it to the House to say. Then again, the hon. member (Mr. Cotton) had declared that the erection of the new buildings would double the taxation, which the people would not be able to stand.

MR. COTTON—If the hon. President of the Council will pardon me for interrupting him, I said that it would increase the personal property tax by half.

HON. MR. POOLEY continued that if the hon. member corrected his statement of course he would accept it, but the remark as to doubling the taxation was one which he had distinctly heard used by his hon. friend. Well, now let this statement, even modified as it was, be analyzed and see what it would amount to—see if it would be borne out by the facts. The personal property tax for the Province amounted to about $90,000, as was shown in the estimates. The whole amount proposed to be spent would require an annual outlay of only $27,000 per year; which, as had been clearly explained, as to cover everything, interest, sinking fund, and all the expenses, so that hon. members could see if the personal property tax would be increased by half or not. The remarks of the hon. gentleman for Vancouver City (Mr. Cotton) were illogical in the extreme. Talk about having to put another hundred thousand dollars on the loan to cover the expenses; why that only showed how little care had been taken in the examination of the matter by hon. members who were offering a factious opposition to the measure, and it showed too that while such statements were easy ones to make they did not bear scrutiny. This was a statement which came from an hon. gentleman who spoke, as he himself announced, as the leader of the Independents, and as such it was a statement which should carry weight, as all his statements should, but if the House found that when what he said was examined into, it was not correct, what would it think, what was the inevitable conclusion it must arrive at? Simply that everything he said must be taken with a grain of salt or else examined first to see how correct it was. It was unpleasant for him (Mr. Pooley) to have to criticise his hon. friend in this way, but he had in justice to the House been compelled to show where the mistakes were. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman had told the House that if the Government would defer the consideration of the proposition for an indefinite time, he (Mr. Cotton) would then assist in carrying it through, and the hon. members who supported him would assist. What was the use of such promises coming from any hon. gentleman of the House as to what he would do this time two years hence or four years, after perhaps one or two general elections? The hon. members of the House were not the arbitrators on this matter; it was their constituents who had the power, and inasmuch as all of them had to go back and give an account of what they were doing, and ask for a renewal of the confidence, how could any one of them assure the House that he would be again returned? Continuing, he wished, before he sat down, to say a few words with reference to what had fallen from the lips of the hon. junior member for Yale (Mr. Semlin). Did that hon. gentleman remember that in 1887 a proposition had been made to the House that a grant of $200,000 in cash should be given by the Province to help in the construction of a railway in the important but at that time undeveloped district of Yale? And did the hon. gentleman remember that when that matter had come up for a vote in the House he (Mr. Semlin) had been the very first one to hold up his hand as high as he could for it?

MR. SEMLIN—You are mistaken. There was no division. (Opposition laughter.)

HON. MR. POOLEY—I hold in my hand the division list as recorded in the Votes and Proceedings, and your name is the very first that appears on the list. (Government laughter and loud applause.)

MR. SEMLIN—I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon; I was mistaken; it was the second time that there was no division. (Laughter.)

HON. MR. POOLEY, continuing, reviewed the history of the failure of the railway company for which the $200,000 was voted to go on with the work. It had been found impossible to finance the scheme and so another appeal was made to the House. This time what was wanted was the guarantee of the interest at the rate of five per cent. of the whole of the bonds amounting to nearly two million dollars, less the subsidy. Was not this a most important con[illegible]tion for the Province, at that time in [illegible] as good a condition financially [illegible] indeed it was, and did any hon. member think that then there was any question raised by members from the Island that because this money was to be spent on the Mainland they should vote against it? No, there was no feeling like that, but on the contrary the members who represented the Island were willing to stand by the proposition and to assist the enterprise to what was at that time an enormous extent, far more than $600,000 was now. It was a heavy contract and would have involved the country over a million dollars if the company had failed to carry out its engagements, but the Government of the day made careful inquiries and decided that it would be safe to assist, and did assist and would never regret it. Yes, in this matter, as in every other matter that came up, there was no feeling on the part of the Island that there should be differences, and whatever little local jealousies might have existed, when it came to a matter of the general good of the Province, the Island always would sink its differences, it had always done so in the past and would always continue to do so. (Applause.) When the Island was by far the more thickly settled part of the Province it had never been niggardly with the Mainland, and he hoped that this would be the noble spirit that would be shown by the whole country in the treatment of the different parts. The hon. member who had just finished speaking (Mr. Cotton) had most unfairly tried to make out that the Attorney-General had said the new buildings were to be started as a gigantic out-door relief scheme. The hon. Attorney-General had said nothing of the kind, and he defied the hon. member (Mr. Cotton) or anyone else to say that language had been used which could be fairly taken to mean that.

HON. MR. DAVIE—Hear, hear!

HON. MR. POOLEY, before he concluded, had a word to say to those honorable gentlemen in this House who claimed to represent the workingmen of the Province—those labor agitators who delight in platitudes and long-flowing sentences, in a high key, to catch the popular ear. And now, when the Government came forward with a measure that would enable the workingman to get work, an honest day's work and an honest day's pay, these men were the very first to come forward and endeavor to throw obstacles in the way of the carrying out of the plan. But did these honorable members think that the workingmen could not see for themselves? The workingmen were no fools. They would be guided by their senses, and not by the long winded harangues of scheming politicians. He had been amongst the workingmen of the Province, he had worked among them and he knew what they were, and he was satisfied that they needed no one to tell them in what light to view the actions of these professed friends, who were really enemies. High flown sentences did not fill empty stomachs, nor feed the starving child, nor cheer the impoverished home, and no matter how much these agitators could talk about the matter, he did not see how they were ever going to get around the workingman again and explain to him how it was that when they had a chance to assist a proposition to give three or four years' steady remunerative employment to a number of them they did not assist it, but, on the contrary, tried in every way possible to hamper the Government in carrying it out. (Applause.)

MR. KITCHEN said he had been accused of being sectional, but such was not the case. The whole matter resolved itself into two questions; First, were the buildings necessary? and second, could the Province stand the expense? He maintained that the buildings were not a necessity. The Government had explained that it was necessary to have among other things a registry office. Now, last year, $75,000 had been voted for a building, and $30,000 for the expropriation of land. It was expected that this would be a sufficient provision, but as those who had voted the sums had watched through the year, no move had been made. Admitting the necessity for a land registry office, whose fault is it that suitable offices have not already been erected? What guarantee was there that they would not come again in a few years with still larger claims? He was of the opinion that if the buildings were erected according to the plans now on exhibition, they would cost three times the amount named before they were completed. He would be charitable, and say double the amount. Why go to such an expense when the country was languishing for streets, roads and bridges? He did not envy the feelings of those who went back to constituents who require roads to get to markets and who desire to spend in such a manner taxes taken from men who have no means of communication with adequate markets. It was all very well for the hon. member for Cariboo to talk about developments when his people put in about $1 per head in taxes and took out about $8 per head for improvements. The member from Kootenay "blowed" about the millions which were to come from the mines of his section, but they did not care whether the buildings were erected or not. They put in $9,000 per annum and take out $60,000. In his opinion, the Capital would not be eventually on the sea coast at all but somewhere in the interior. What would the constituents of the hon. member from Lillooet say to him if he voted for such luxurious buildings, which would be an ornament to older countries, when they could not get a few hundreds to spend in opening up trails to get supplies into the country. The Province was really only a municipality on a larger scale, but what municipality would stand such an expenditure without first going to the ratepayers? Another view which might be taken of the matter was that the House had been said to represent the country. Now out of a House of thirty-three members he found that fourteen members had a post office address of Victoria. It could not be said that these men who were property holders in Victoria were not to a greater or less measure influenced by that fact. The expenditure of this $600,000 would only tend to accentuate the jealous feeling between the two districts. An attempt should be made to allay the feeling caused by the producing districts of Yale and Westminster not getting back a fair share of the money which they contributed. He must again say that he could not vote for palatial buildings when his constituents were suffering for roads and bridges. If money must be spent to help the Province let it be spent in various developments throughout the Province.

MR. CROFT thought the hon. gentlemen were trying to greatly exaggerate the importance of the bill. It was true that it all resolved itself into two questions—does the Province need the buildings, and could the Province pay for them? When they considered that a bill now being contemplated with regard to land transactions would render the employment of a large staff of men necessary, they must think of providing some place for them. But really the whole matter could be summed up by asking how outsiders could be expected to have faith in a Province which had not sufficient faith in itself to erect buildings suitable for its needs. As to the ability of the Province to pay for the buildings, there could be no question. During the next fifty years the population of this Province would surely increase to over 1,000,000 people, which would make the loan amount to but little more than 50c. per head, an amount much smaller than that imposed by almost every other Province in the Dominion. The Province needed the buildings and was able to stand the expense, and he had no doubt they would be built.

The second reading carried on the following division, viz:

AYES—Messrs. Baker, Davie, Vernon, Eberts, Booth, Hall, Nason, Pooley, Turner, Croft, Hunter, Rogers, Anderson, Fletcher, Milne, Beaven, Smith, Watt, Kellie, Grant and Punch—21.

NAYS—Martin, Horne, Keith, Brown, Foster, Cotton, Kitchen, Sword, McKenzie, Semlin and Stoddart—11.

PETITION.

HON. MR. BEAVEN presented a petition from Thos. Shotbolt and others, in favor of the Victoria Official Map Act.

The House adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

THIRTY-SIXTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, March 22, 1893.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock. Prayers by Rev. J. H. White.

PETITIONS.

The petition of Thos. Shotbolt and others in favor of the Victoria City Official Map Act was read and received; as was

The petition of property owners in Pitt Meadows in favor of Dyking and Draining Act.

RETURNS.

HON. MR. VERNON presented a return to an order of the House, showing account of money paid for expropriated land.

SPECIAL WARRANTS.

HON. MR. TURNER presented a return showing special warrants issued from March 1, 1892, to date.

SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS.

HON. MR. VERNON presented a return to an order of the House showing full particulars in connection with the sale of public lands, for which $213,000 was received. He said that this was a most voluminous report, having taken the whole time of two clerks for two weeks to prepare it, and he hoped it would satisfy the hon. leader of the Opposition. (Laughter.)

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NEW WESTMINSTER.

The bill to incorporate the Roman Catholic Bishop of New Westminster was read a third time and passed.

COWICHAN STREETS, ETC.

MR. MCKENZIE moved for a return showing: 1.—The roads, streets, bridges and wharves within the municipality of North Cowichan that have been built or repaired out of the general appropriations for Cowichan District for the year ending June 30, 1893 (vote No. 157). 2.—The amount so spent. 3.—The amount (if any) spent under the direction of the Municipal Council of North Cowichan. Carried.

VANCOUVER CHARTER AMENDMENT.

The Vancouver Charter Amendment Act was read a third time and passed.

LARDEAU AND KOOTENAY RAILWAY.

The Lardeau & Kootenay Railway Incorporation Act was read a third time and passed.

ANGLICAN SYNOD OF NEW WESTMINSTER.

On the order for adoption of report of the committee of the whole on the Anglican Synod of New Westminster bill,

HON. MR. BEAVEN suggested that more consideration should be given the bill.

The report was adopted.

B. I. AND F. V. RAILWAY BILL.

Report of committee on the B. I. & F. V. railway bill was adopted; bill read a third time and passed.

KOOTENAY LAKE SHORE AND LARDO RAILWAY.

The House went into committee of the whole on the Kootenay Lake Shore & Lardo railway, Mr. Stoddart in the chair. Bill was reported complete with amendments.

VICTORIA OFFICIAL MAP ACT.

The House went into committee of the whole on the Victoria Official Map Act, Mr. Anderson in the chair.

On the discussion of clause 5,

HON. MR. DAVIE said he did not know when he had ever had a bill before him which he approached with so much timidity. He was simply groping in the dark and was sure hon. members of the House, with the single exception, perhaps, of the hon. leader of the Opposition, were in the same position and did not know what minute there might be some grave injustice done to private rights. He could not understand the reference, for instance, to Bastion street. Why was it necessary to put down the monuments to mark the sides of that street? On both sides of the street there were brick buildings which defined the sides clearly enough. This being the case, what was the object of the bill? It was either necessary or mischievous and he wanted more information before he could be satisfied to go ahead.

HON. MR. BEAVEN thought this clause was plain enough. He did not think that it would have the effect of injuring private rights.

On the discussion of Clause 6,

HON. MR. DAVIE said he could not help thinking that there was some occult motive behind all this. The clause went away beyond what the hon. leader of the Opposition stated. Here the City Engineer was made the sole arbitrator of people's rights to their property.

MR. HUNTER thought this section of the bill had reference to what was simply an engineering question, the establishment of reference points.

HON. MR. POOLEY drew attention to the provisions of section 10, which practically meant that if the surveyor put the monument six inches out of the proper position, the valuable buildings which might be on the land could be considered out of line.

HON. MR. BEAVEN said that the evil pointed out already existed.

After some discussion, the committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

NELSON ELECTRIC LIGHT BILL.

The House went into committee of the whole on the Nelson Electric Light Co.'s bill, Mr. McKenzie in the chair. Bill was reported complete without amendment.

SECOND READINGS.

The following bills were read a second time:

To incorporate Vancouver Y. M. C. A. (Mr. Horne).

To incorporate B.C. College (Mr. Horne).

Osoyoos and Okanagan railway bill (Mr. Stoddart).

Bedlington and West Kootenay railway bill (Mr. Croft).

Kootenay Central railway bill (Mr. Croft).

Whetham College bill (Mr. Horne).

Conveyances (Smith & Angus) validation bill (Mr. Cotton).

Pacific telephone and cable bill (Mr. Croft).

Kaslo-Slocan tramway bill (Dr. Watt).

The C.P.R. steamship Empress of Japan sailed from Hongkong yesterday, and will be due here on the 12th of next month. The Empress of India, now in Vancouver, is scheduled to sail for the Orient on the 3rd of April.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Ald. Miller's Resolution to Advise the City Representatives in the Legislature Lost.

Tenders for Repairing and Winding the City Clock Received—Police Uniforms.

The City Council held its regular weekly meeting last night, there being present His Worship the Mayor and a full board.

The tenders for regulating and keeping in repair the city clock were taken up first. During an interval a complaint of A. Olsen relative to a Chinese pig ranch was referred to the sanitary officer, with power to act and report to the Council.

The notices calling for tenders for the clock were read and those received opened. They were:

"Repairing and keeping in order, C. T. Lundquist, $125.

"Winding $25; keeping in order $50; W. J. Stottart.

"Winding and repairing $150, R. F. Stottart.

"Repairing $100, winding $50, C. E. Redfern.

"Winding $50, repairing $50, L. Moser.

ALD. BELYEA moved that Mr. Redfern be given the contract for repairs.

ALD. BRAGG—That is not fair to the others who have tendered. The contract should be let to the lowest responsible bidder, or the matter be referred to a committee with power to so place it.

On motion Ald. Bragg's proposition carried.

The Finance committee reported expenditures amounting to $105 for wages; approved. They also asked for warrants to the amount of $321.30.

ALD. BELYEA—There is one item that the Council should attend to, that is $13 for an inquiry into the Phœnix fire. There was no justification for holding such an inquiry, and I wish to warn the committee that the next time such a bill comes in I shall oppose it. The Council has no interest in such investigations. Let those who are interested pay for them.

ALD. MUNN—These inquiries are in the public interest and are good things.

ALD. BELYEA—There is nothing in the act to give the Council a legal right to pay such bills.

ALD. MCTAVISH—I, for one, will always sustain the Mayor as chief magistrate in taking the power to attend to such matters.

On motion the entire amount was passed.

The Street committee made a number of recommendations, which were approved. The Police committee asked that tenders be invited for furnishing the summer clothing of the force, the same to be in by May 15. It was so ordered.

The committee appointed to confer with the Government with regard to the transfer of the flats over James Bay from the Provincial Government to the City, recommended that the Government be asked to make the transfer. They also recommended that the City Engineer prepare plans for the straightening of Belleville street, between James Bay bridge and Maclure street. The report was adopted.

Dr. Duncan reported that some of the Chinese merchants had promised to try to properly conduct the Chinese hospital, and he hoped they would do so.

ALD. MILLER moved that the hospital be abated as a nuisance.

This was discussed at considerable length.

ALD. BELYEA did not think the Council had the power to abate the hospital, and it was finally resolved that the health officer be instructed to strictly carry out the health by-law with regard to the institution.

City Engineer Wilmot submitted plans for draining the pond on upper Pandora street; the cost was estimated at $1,400. Received and referred to the Sewerage committee.

The by-law asking for funds to improve Beacon Hill Park was introduced and read a first time.

ALD. MILLER'S resolution to urge the city representatives in the Legislature to do all they can to further the endeavor to secure the $600,000 for new parliamentary buildings was next introduced and discussed.

ALD. BELYEA thought it would be well for the Council to attend strictly to municipal affairs, and after considerable discussion the resolution was put and lost, the feeling being that it was too late, as the bill was practically passed.

Messrs. Stone and Wellington objected to the tax of $50 per six months imposed upon representatives of outside business houses; some were paying it and some were not.

ALD. BELYEA thought that the matter should be carefully gone into. The communication was referred to the City Treasurer and Finance committee.

Hon. D. W. Higgins represented that car No. 9 running to Oak Bay had run into a horse which was at large. Could not the Pound By-law be more closely carried out? Referred to the Pound Keeper.

The council then adjourned.

SUPREME COURT.

IN CHAMBERS.

(Before Mr. Justice Walkem.)

March 22.

Commercial Bank of Manitoba v. the Kootenay B. C. Smelting & Trading Syndicate, Ltd.—Application for thirty days' time in which to deliver defence. Time granted, costs to be costs in cause.

Lorimer v. Jensen—Application to sustain order for examination of plaintiff and for an official stenographer to attend. Order made by consent.

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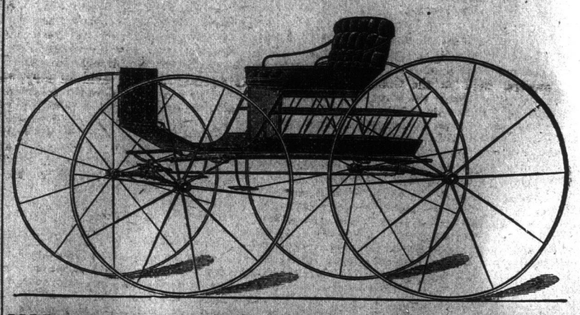

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