# The Legislature.

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ducing the legislation was to give Canadians and Britishers an opportunity to stake claims. The government was assured that all the richest claims had already been staked therefore that provision of the act had no further effect. At the same time, the government had had under consideration plans to enable parties with not enough capital to develop their properties, to sell them to men with money. The government would, therefore, probably be able to lay before the house some measure in that direction. As the bill was passed unanimously, save for the vote of the hon. member for Cassiar (Mr. Clifford), so he hoped now that not only would all other members, but that hon. gentleman also support this measure.

He thought he had answered all the points raised during the discussion. He now hoped that the opposition would see that the government having extended it every courtesy, having been most liberal in the allowance of time to talk—would pay some attention to the opinions now being expressed in the press that it was about time for this house to get down to business and that being in opposition did not mean that they should be obstructionists.

The conditions of this province were such that it behoved all to work together for the good of British Columbia and to advance its interests. It had been a pleasure to him to see that members on both sides of the house could join together so heartily and harmoniously in that movement to extend aid to the mother country in her time of need. That was a practical illustration—the Pacific cable scheme was another—of the real Imperial federation that was coming about in the British Empire. He remembered as a boy hearing the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, that good and stalwart Yorkshireman, who was really the father of the Imperial Federation idea. For many years that was not fashionable. They heard remarks indeed that the trend of opinion was in the other direction, the disruption of the Empire. It must afford pleasure to every patriotic Britisher to know that they never could hear such sentiments now. (Applause.) All realized that the true greatness of Britain lay in perial relations of the Empire. No intelli- Columbia was far distant from the mother country, yet this province stood in a position which, within two or three years might be a most important one in the Imperial relation of the Empire. No intelligent man who observes what was going on but must realize that in a few years a tremendous conflict might rage on the other side of the Pacific ocean. For that period it was desirable that we should build up a strong British community in British Columbia. That was the view taken by this government in its attempt to keep out people of the Mongolian race. They did not want to see in this province the population composed of two classes, the capitalists and the hordes of yellow-skinned Asiatics. The government wanted to make this a country for the British people, where workingmen could get good wages and make comfortable homes for themselves. That was the best contribution the province could make to the advance of the Empire and for the glory of the sovereign whom they all so greatly admired. That was the view he took, and he thought that spirit, as Mr. McBride said, should animate this assembly that they should in their debates lessen the bitterness of attack and personal feeling. In doing that they would not only raise the house in the estimation of the people, but would also conduce largely to the interests of this great province.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19.

The house having been opened with prayer by Rev. W. H. Barraclough,

A PETITION

was presented by Mr. Green—from the Hall Mines Ltd., and thirty-two other companies operating or owning mining properties within West Kootenay, and more particularly the Slocan district, or precisely similar tenor and effect to that presented by Mr. J. M. Martin, from the miners of the Rossland district. The petition from the Slocan was signed by:

The Hall Mines Ltd.; The Fern Gold Mining & Milling Co.; Duncan Mines Limited; Granite Gold Mines Limited; Queen Bess Proprietary Co., Ltd.; London & B. C. Gold Fields Ltd.; The Exchequer Gold Mining Co., Ltd.; The Ymir Gold Mines Ltd.; The Enterprise B. C. Mines Ltd.; The Wakefield Mines Ltd; The Northwest Mining Syndicate Ltd.; The Bosun Mines Ltd.; Finch & Campbell; The Ruth Mines Limited; Minnesota Silver Co., Ltd.; Sunshine Mining Co., Ltd.; The Reco Mining & Milling Co., Ltd.; Slocan Southern Mining Co., Ltd.; The Wonderful Group Mining Co., Ltd.; Miller Creek Mining Co., Ltd.; The Chambers Group Mining Co., Ltd.; Slocan Star Mine; Scottish-Colonial Goldfields Ltd.; "Idaho Mines"; Utica Mines"; Whitewater Mines Ltd.; Jackson Mines Ltd.; Anton Consolidated Mines Ltd.; Rambler-Cariboo Mines Ltd.; Whitewater Deep Mine; Payne Cons. Mining Co., Ltd.; Noble Five Cons. M. & M. Co., Ltd.

The petitions of the citizens of Silverton, approving the eight-hour law, and of M. King, preliminary to the presentation of a petition for incorporation for a railway company — presented on Thursday — were read and received.

DEBATING THE SPEECH.

MR. POOLEY was next received with general applause from both sides of the house. He said that in rising to continue the debate on the amendment before the house, that the hon. gentlemen opposite had lost the confidence of the house and country, he felt a certain diffidence, despite the fact that he had long occupied a seat in this legislature—in fact was an old hand at it. And why did this difference arise? Because in all his long parliamentary experience it had never before fallen to his lot to address a body of gentlemen so constituted as was the party opposite—a body of gentlemen each one of whom held the future of this province in the palm of his hand. What did this mean? It meant that the government with its barest of majorities had brought about a most peculiar condition of affairs. It was beyond discussion that the most the government could at present hope for, except in the event of sickness or other untoward circumstances on the other side, was a majority of one. Therefore any one member on the government side, if were so inclined, was in a position to dictate and insist upon the recognition of just such a line of policy as he might approve; he might say to the leader of the government, you must give to my constituency just what I shall say; you must pursue a line of policy in accordance with my desires and my interests. If you do not, I will vote against you, and turn you out. That was what any man of those opposite was in a position to do. Herein was the danger that menaced the province through the present position of the government—and this danger was multiplied by fourteen—for there were fourteen gentlemen opposite, each one of whom held in his hand the same power for good or evil. Each could say to the government, "Do this, or I will vote you out of power." This sort of government was not what the people of British Columbia wanted. It was not good government. The people and good government alike desired and required an administration with a sufficient majority to carry on the business of the country in a business-like, intelligent manner, and not a government that could be controlled and absolutely dictated to by each and every member of its following. Such a government was not one which could even commend itself to the hon. gentlemen opposite, although they were struggling to maintain it. It was natural that they should, for well they knew that once they lost the power that they had so accidentally and unexpectedly acquired, it could never be regained—that when once the people had a chance of speaking, they would be rejected utterly and entirely. It was therefore but natural that they should hold on to power with desperation—their grasp of office was that of a dying man; they saw no other chance than for them than to hold on as long as possible, in any manner possible. And this was the condition of affairs in British Columbia, as it existed at present, and as it should be plainly presented to the people. The hon. leader of the government had said that if a vote was taken, and the government was shown thereby to have lost the confidence of the house, an appeal to the people would very quickly show how the electorate regarded their course—

Hon. Mr. Semlin—Hear; hear.

Such a reference as this, Mr. Pooley continued, was improper and unconstitutional.

The hon. Premier had no right to crack the whip of dissolution over the heads of his followers in case they should manifest a disposition to act independently. In support of his contention as to the unconstitutionality of such a threat, the hon. senior member for Esquimalt proceeded to read from Todd's Parliamentary Practice, as follows, the quotation being received with applause:

"While the decision of the house upon any question which is calculated to affect the relations of ministers towards the House of Commons is pending, it is highly irregular and unconstitutional to refer to a dissolution of parliament as a probably contingency, with a view to influence the conduct of members upon the particular occasion. For the houses of parliament should always be in a position to exercise an unbiased judgment upon every question brought before them, fearing neither crown on the one hand nor the people on the other."

When it was found that the Premier was forced thus unconstitutionally to allude to a possible dissolution in order to keep his followers in line, it was very apparent to any observer that the party was in distress—that there must be dissention in the ranks—that it is not sufficiently impressed with the advantages of the government policy to afford the government hearty and sincere support. The hon. gentlemen opposite well know that they were carrying on the affairs of the country in a manner that could not be satisfactory to the people of the country; they well knew that the course of the government was not such as to justify its return if the issues of the day were submitted to the people. They were quite well aware that they could not face the electors, and that when it became necessary for them to go back to their constituents they were going to the death of their political asperations. On the opposition side quite the contrary were the facts. The statements and warnings of the opposition had been verified and demonstrated by the course and record of the government. The opposition could face their constituents tomorrow if necessary, with nothing to fear. He had noticed that gentlemen on the other side of the house, during the course of this debate, had not dared to get up and so much as attempt to refute or challenge the arguments of their political opponents. During the progress of the debate only one of the government ranks, his former colleague for Esquimalt district, Mr. Helgesen, had dared to get up—they could not keep him down—

"No; no," said Mr. Deane—while others directed attention to the fact that both Mr. Deane and Mr. Ralph Smith of the government side had contributed to the discussion—

Mr. Pooley ventured the suggestion that it would perhaps be well for the gentlemen opposite to await the conclusion of what he had to say before correcting him. He repeated that only this one of the government's followers had been brave enough to rise in his place and attempt to explain the position of the government in endeavoring to give away a million dollars toward securing the construction of a Pacific cable. The hon. member for Cariboo had mentioned some figures, but—although he did not hear that hon. gentleman very distinctly, he did not think that they applied to this subject or offered any explanation of the peculiar position in which the province was placed. Why was it that the members on the government side had thus remained silent—without a word to say, not daring to approve the government's course, or to attempt any explanation or apology for it. Why? Because they were afraid to voice their opinions. They realized that if they did, these opinions would be put in print, and when the elections did come on would be brought home to them to their utter discomfiture.

Turning to the contents of His Honor's speech, Mr. Pooley said that he would next express his views briefly on the questions of the eight-hour law, the cable offer, and one or two other of the subjects that had already been touched upon in the course of the debate. He alluded first of all to the remarkable tale told on Thursday by the Finance Minister—he addressed him now as the Finance Minister—in connection with the proffered assistance for the cable. The Minister of Finance had told the house that there was a cable to be laid between this coast and the coast of Australia; that the Australian government was in favor of the project; that the Canadian government was in its favor; that the Imperial government was in its favor. But, the Finance Minister had told the house, there was a very great power behind the throne in the shape of an antagonistic company, the Eastern Telegraph Co., which virtually controlled the British House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton denied that he had made such a statement.

Mr. Pooley was quite prepared to believe that the Finance Minister had not intended to make his statement so bald as this. But what had he said? He had said that the Imperial government was all ready to go ahead with the laying of the cable, each of the colonial governments being favorable to the project, but so great was the influence brought to bear by the Eastern Telegraph Company that they had been obliged to give it up. It was at this juncture that the Finance Minister of British Columbia had come to the rescue. He had immediately sent in his offer to contribute a million dollars, and that this had set the whole matter right, so that it would now go on without delay. Surely it was much to the credit of the province that it should possess such power—that it should be able to influence and exert greater weight in behalf of this or any project than the Imperial parliament, the colonies of Australia, of the Dominion of Canada. Surely the country was to be congratulated on such a condition of affairs, and to ask who it was that had brought British Columbia into such a favorable position. It could not be the present government, for they had just assumed office—it must then be the late government that the credit should be given. The new government had had neither time nor opportunity then to bring the country into so favorable a position. (Applause.) But the Minister of Finance now said that he had not offered a million dollars—nothing of the kind! He had only pledged the province to take stock in the enterprise to the amount of one million dollars, which it might never be called upon to pay. He held that the offer was to all intents and purposes the same as though an offer of the million outright had been made. Everyone knew that in subscribing for this amount of stock, the province was influenced its credit to the total sum. Everyone knew that when a man put his name to a note, his credit was just as much affected as though he had paid the cash out. In the same way the credit of the province was in the case in question similarly bound to the extent of the entire million. It could be maintained indisputably that this money had been unconstitutionally offered, but he did not propose to deal with this phase of the question at any length. He was agreed that the million of money was well within the means of the province, yet he could not help contrasting the statement now made to this effect by the Finance Minister with that gentleman's curiously inconsistent contention in addressing the house last year, that the country was on the very verge of bankruptcy—that the late government had left the country in dire financial straits. It was then said by the Finance Minister that he hoped by the exercise of great care to make ends meet, but there would be nothing at all available for the carrying on of the necessary public works required throughout the country. This had been meant of course to impress the public with the fact that a policy of wise economy had been inaugurated.

But no sooner had the session ended, than what was found? This offer of a million dollars' support for the Pacific cable. No wonder there were no voices raised on the other side of the house in explanation or defence of this curious inconsistence. Perhaps it was that the members of the government had understood as little as their opponents exactly what had been done. He (Mr. Pooley) had certainly been surprised at the revelations made by the Finance Minister on this subject in the course of his address. The Finance Minister had placed himself in a bad position a year ago when he had said that the country was on the verge of bankruptcy; he had made his position still more extraordinary when he had volunteered to pledge the credit of the province by a bond of this nature to the extent of a million dollars, and had claimed that it had influenced the project with more definite results than those securable by the Imperial government.

The Finance Minister had given some attention to the subject of deficits. He had asked members opposite if they knew the meaning of deficit. He (Mr. Pooley) had been of the opinion that if a man had an income of $4,000 a year, and spent $5,000, he might be said at the end of the year to have a deficit of $1,000. If, however, he put money into a house or machinery or business premises, which remained to him as assets, and were possibly productive of an increased income, such an investment could not be classed as a deficit. In the same manner when the government borrowed money and expended it on necessary public works that the country needed, and which would assist in its development, that could not be styled a deficit. He was greatly surprised to hear any hon. gentleman contend that an expenditure of this kind could be charged so as to show a deficit in the public accounts. There was another reason why the government should retire from their present position, and why the people should condemn them as unfit to be trusted with the authority of government. He referred to the legislation by which they were already known. He had been surprised to hear the hon. Finance Minister claim that the hon. junior member —or the hon. third member for Vancouver City, it did not seem quite clear which he was—at any rate the "fallen angel" (laughter)—should be held responsible for all the bad legislation of last session—

Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton interjected a denial. The hon. senior member for Esquimalt had totally misunderstood his remarks. He accepted his own full share of responsibility for that legislation. Certainly the government was responsible for it.

Mr. Pooley was quite prepared to accept the Finance Minister's statement. It only seemed then that the government could be judged and condemned upon his hasty, ill-advised legislation. Referring first to the changes made in the licensing act of last session, the senior member for Esquimalt showed that the changes had been found to work great hardship—so much so that when the commissioners first sat they informed the licensees that the last year licenses would be doubled. In Esquimalt village the charge was now $200 per annum, an increase from $100; in rural districts the fee had been increased from $60 to $100, besides which all licensees were required to come before the commissioners once every half-year and pay a special fee of $10, so that in reality the village licenses that had been $100 were now $220; and the fee in the rural districts that had been $60 a year, was now $120. These new rules had already operated so disadvantageously that the government recognized its position, and had gone so far as to inform the licensees that they would refund all this additional collection. He held that even this return would be but small compensation for the unnecessary bother and inconvenience to which these people had been subjected. Tracing the annoyances entailed by the required twice-a-year appearance and fresh application to the commission, and the other unfair and objectionable requirements of the new regulations, Mr. Pooley pronounced these both unnecessary and inexpedient, where no charges had been made, more especially as the fate of the licensee was not in the hand of an independent officer such as the superintendent of police, but a board that was constantly changing. He held that having paid their license fees and complied with all the requirements of qualification, licensees should be permitted to carry on their business without being persistently and unnecessarily harassed. Touching upon the desperate expedients that the present government found itself forced to adopt in endeavoring to evade before the people the consequences of its own legislation, the senior member for Esquimalt stated that at a recent meeting of the licensing commissioners at Esquimalt, he had been given to understand one of the commissioners—after informing the licensees that their extra fees would be refunded, endeavored to show them that the present government was not responsible for the legislation under which these collections had been made. He had said that the act had been drawn up by the late government, but never presented by them to be passed. The new government coming in had found it in one of the pigeon holes, and had made it a law—but the old government that had left it in the pigeon hole were to be held responsible. (Laughter.) This commissioner could not have himself had had opportunity to search the waste-paper baskets and pigeon holes—he must have been primed by the Attorney-General's department. This certainly was a funny position of affairs. (Government members cried "hear; hear"—and pounded the desks energetically, which led the hon. member for Esquimalt to remark upon their readiness to adopt this method of expressing their views. They could, he said, use their muscle upon the desks, if they could not use their tongues and brains in contributing to the discussion.)

With respect to the duality of Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton's position; That hon. gentleman stated that he had some time ago taken the position of chief commissioner of lands and works because it had been found too onerous for the hon. Premier. This was declared to have been merely a temporary arrangement, yet it had been made last June—and still prevailed. Was it possible, he asked, that Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton still held the two positions because he could find no one on his side of the house who, in the opinion of the Finance Minister, had brains enough to fill either of the two positions? Were the people to so interpret the situation? It surely was no compliment to the gentlemen on the opposite side of the house for the hon. gentleman to hold the two positions. Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton said that he was only occupying the two offices temporarily, and that he had drawn but one salary—also that he believed he had administered the two departments well. This he had no intention of disputing. He held that the retention of the dual offices was nevertheless a reflection upon the intelligence of the party, and another reason why the country should have opportunity of expressing dissent—that the whole of the most important business of the province should be in the hands of this one gentleman—he really controlling the government as far as the government was not controlled by the fourteen other gentlemen who were sitting behind him.

As for the eight-hour law, to which numerous references had been made—he had no hesitation in saying that he was heartily opposed to this or any other similar legislation that had been shoved through with the haste and lack of consideration this important section had received. The matter would have been entirely different had the sections of the mining act in question been given proper notice of—properly considered and discussed, and then incorporated in the law. He had not been present when the amendments in question had been inserted in the act—had unfortunately been confined to his room by illness at that time—but if he had been in the house it was quite possible that he too would have overlooked the point at issue. Many things were overlooked when the legislation was railroaded through the house as this measure had been. Legislation that was so rushed into the statutes could not be given intelligent or sufficient thought in its various bearings. When therefore he saw a section such as this creep into the acts of the province, without proper consideration, he was thoroughly opposed to it. Such legislation, so initiated, was a disgrace to the house—the matters involved should have been thoroughly considered; thoroughly discussed. No one could calculate the injury that had been done the mining industry through its operation. It had been the deathblow to Kaslo. It had locked up the mines; excluded capital; brought miners and mine owners into antagonism. No benefit could accrue from a law thus introduced. If it had been properly presented, the matter would have been different. He hoped now that the government would withdraw this legislation, and present it to the house fairly, so that it might be properly considered—and when passed, command the respect of the country, as in its present form (having been passed as it was) it could not. The government should not make ducks and drakes of other people's property; they should not, as in this instance they had, prevent an honest man from making an honest living.

He failed to see wherein the taxation had been decreased, as declared to be the fact by the Finance Minister, and in closing, said that while he could quite agree with that hon. gentleman in hoping that the house should now sit down and do something for the good of the country, he did not think that the government as at present constituted was calculated to bring down legislation of a character calculated to be of benefit to the province.

MR. GREEN opened by congratulating the mover and seconder of the address on their speeches and continuing took up the eight-hour law. The government members were not afraid to discuss the eight-hour law. The mines—the big ones which should not have closed down—had closed down, not because of the law, but on a question of wages between the miners and mine owners. The members who pretended to be opposed to the act would be given an opportunity of expressing their opinion on it. All agreed that the schedule system was and had not been satisfactory for years, and he felt sure that they would recognize the one to be introduced as a great improvement. In his opinion the appropriations had been spent more advantageously last year than since he came to the province some sixteen years ago. It would not be forgotten that the members of the opposition had voted with the government on that eight-hour bill. The open-door policy might be very good and he believed it was for Great Britain, but here it was different. While American prospectors were allowed to come into British Columbia and prospect and hold claims without hindrance, Britishers could not hold claims in Washington without first forswearing their allegiance to the Queen. It was not perfect, he would admit, but the Minister of Finance had promised that it would be amended. Because a Chinaman would escape the $5 miner's tax, it was no reason why a man should be taxed $5 for working in the mines. Reverting to the eight-hour law, he contended that everyone wanted that act and wanted it just as it was. He hoped to hear all members express themselves both on the eight-hour law and the alien act.

MR. EBERTS congratulated the mover and seconder of the address on their clever speeches. They had had a most difficult task to perform, trying to make something out of nothing. He tendered them his congratulations and said they did well indeed, although he could not agree with all they had said, being satisfied that they had been improperly briefed. It was pleasant to note the good feeling that so far this session had been shown to the members of the opposition being in striking contrast to that shown during the election campaign and at the last session. Then, they had been treated as a band of ruffians, and accused of maladministration.

Mr. Deane—Aye; aye!

Mr. Eberts—The member said aye; aye! He will be dealt with later. The members of the Turner government had been accused of maladministration, and dishonesty by the then opposition press; the members of the present government and their supporters sitting quietly by. Things had changed, not one member on the opposite side had stood up in the house and repeated the accusation, knowing that the facts would not support them. Why this change? From a majority of six the government majority during the interim between the session had fallen off to a possible majority of one, and that majority made up from recalcitrant members from the present opposition. It was preposterous to say that the present government with this possible majority of one represented the people of British Columbia. They should go to the Lieutenant-Governor, point out the defections from their supporters, admit that they no longer represented the people and tender their resignations. That they would not do, but they would endeavor to hold on to office just as long as possible, carrying the laws by the vote of the chairman. He did not refer to the speaker but to the chairman of committee, for it was in committee that the laws were made. When the house met last year and it was pointed out that nothing had been done the government said that they had been taking stock since they had been placed in office in August. They must have been taking stock ever since, for still nothing had been done. Had they taken stock of their political standing in the province they would have found that their stock was away below par. In Cariboo it was not worth 20 cents on the dollar; a member who had been in Atlin said it was not worth 5 cents there, while here it was worth nothing at all. Were the members of the government honest political tradesmen they would, with this depreciation of stock facing them, make an assignment to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Major Kinchant—Will you run in Cariboo?

Speaker Forster reminded the member for Cariboo that such question were out of order.

Mr. Eberts said he would reply to the question by saying that the hon. member who had interrupted would never run in Cariboo again. Taking up the speech paragraph by paragraph he first referred to the clause dealing with Atlin and expressed pleasure at the fact that the mining disputes in that district had been settled honestly and fairly. Anyone knowing Mr. Justice Irving knew that he would do nothing but what he thought was just and right, the government having made a wise choice when they appointed him commissioner to deal with the disputes. The disputes had arisen, not from any fault of the late government or altogether from the fault of the present government. The Turner government had gone out of power at about the time the discoveries were made and therefore it was foolish to accuse them of not having sufficient forms in the office at Bennett, a hundred miles from where the discoveries were made, to allow of claims being properly recorded.

Cluase three speaks of the education act and some proposed changes. He was strongly in favor of giving the boys and girls of the province a good liberal education free of charge. Every child should be given the best education the province could afford to give. At present the education system took one-fifth of the revenue of the province.

Reference had also been made to the lumbering industry, and proposed changes in the law, but it was impossible to speak of this also, as no information was given as to the tenor of the changes proposed. If it would bring closer together the loggers and millmen, and get each their rights, every member would be in favor of it. He would ask the Minister of Finance whether the millmen and loggers had been consulted in regard to the proposed changes?

Mr. Cotton—Yes.

Mr. Eberts—The late government had introduced legislation in regard to log scaling. He was glad that the millmen and loggers had been brought together.

Mr. Cotton—I did not say that they had been brought together.

Mr. Eberts hoped that they would be brought together before the bill was introduced. The speech from the throne spoke of remission of taxation; there could be no remission of taxation unless the taxes were in hand. The explanation of the hon. the Finance Minister was that they did not get in all they expected to from the alien and other acts. He tried to make the members believe that the mortgage tax had not been collected during the last fiscal year. That was not so; the tax had been collected up to the end of the fiscal year and the public accounts would show it. When the public accounts to the end of December were presented to the house it would be found that there was a tremendous deficit, and if it had not been for the discovery of the Atlin district the deficit would have been still greater. Atlin had contributed over $100,000 to the revenue of the province.

Mr. Cotton—No.

Mr. Eberts—Well, how much then?

Mr. Cotton—$80,000.

Mr. Eberts—Well, $80,000 is a considerable amount to be added to the revenue, which was on the decline.

Mr. Cotton—You must take into account the expenditure.

Mr. Eberts—The expenditure amounted to very little. You did not even erect a building. The revenue is steadily going down.

Mr. Cotton—That is not so.

Mr. Eberts said he made the statement, and it was generally held to be a fact when the accounts were brought down. Mr. Cotton had spoken of the floating of last year's loan and had said it was better than the loan of 1895. The province had had many loans, some of which were floated at 7 and 5 per cent. In 1891 the province had become satisfied that British Columbia was not properly treated as regards loans; he was satisfied that he could get the money at 3 per cent. on inscribed stock. This stock was inscribed by men of known financial ability, and there was no chance of any of it going astray. In 1891 the first of these 3 per cent. bonds only brought 86, because British Columbia was unknown to the financial world. The credit of the country had been increased from 86 in 1891 to 104 when the Turner government went out of power, it being the price obtained for the stock floated in 1895. Any credit, therefore, for improving the standing of the province in the financial world was due to Mr. Turner and the richness of the country. The present government took credit for getting a little more of the inscribed stock than did the Turner government. If they had gone before the financiers of London without the Inscribed Stock Act, introduced by Mr. Turner, they would have been in the same position as was the late government in 1891. In the speech from the throne at the last session of the legislature it was said that the loan was to be floated on different terms than the previous ones; that the government did not propose to take advantage of the Inscribed Stock Act.

Mr. Cotton—Where does the statement appear that the loan was not to be floated under the Inscribed Stock Act?

Mr. Eberts—I did not say that you used those exact words, but the only inference that could be drawn from the speech was that you were not going to take advantage of the Inscribed Stock Act, but were going to try and float it in some other way—in fact, I have it on the best authority that you tried to float the loan without the Inscribed Stock Act, but failed, and had to return to the bankers who had been engaged by the previous government.

Mr. Cotton—I object to you saying that we had to go back to the agents.

Mr. Eberts objected to persistent and small interruption. The government had tried to take the credit for the increased price obtained for the bonds. The men who had got the loan were the same as those who were engaged by the late government, and the stock was inscribed by the said bankers. But the Finance Minister tried to lead his followers to believe that he and his government got 1 per cent. more for the stock. He had to fall back on the bankers and brokers who had been used by the late government. Everybody spoke well of the Bank of British Columbia.

Mr. Cotton—The leader of the opposition did not.

Mr. Eberts protested that Mr. Turner had said nothing against the Bank of British Columbia; he was one of the most loyal supporters of it.

Mr. Turner—I never spoke disrespectfully of the bank.

Mr. Eberts said Mr. Cotton had tried to make out that a great saving had been made through the Minister of Finance not going to London to assist in the floating of the loan. Mr. Martin had told the house that the Minister of Finance was ready to go, having been advised to make the trip, but changed his plans on account of some friction in the government.

Mr. Cotton—I did not intend to go. I said at the time that it was impossible for me to go.

Mr. Eberts—Mr. Turner had gone to London in 1891, because the bankers had advised him that it would be well to do so. Probably if the present Minister of Finance had taken the advice of those who were in a position to know, and had gone to London, the province might have got 1 per cent. more for the stock.

Mr. Eberts next dealt with the proposed change in the subsidy to the Columbia & Western railway; the substitution of cash for the land grant. He was glad to know that the government were taking up the matter in the manner explained by Mr. Cotton, the government issuing bonds and the company accepting them as cash. The arrangement between the government and the company was that the company was to give up their land grant from Robson to Penticton if they received the cash subsidy.

Mr. Cotton—The government passed an order-in-council varying the route, the act giving them the power to do so.

Mr. Eberts—The only variation that could be made in the route was a mile here or there, the route not having been surveyed at that time. The late government was very anxious to open up the Boundary Creek country. It was first proposed to run the line straight across from Robson to Midway, but it was found that they could not get across, and were therefore allowed to build by the way of Robson. It was considered by the late government that if they would get the road build for 20,000 acres a mile it would be an excellent thing, having been given out that the Boundary district was the richest in the upper country, and that it was the duty of the government to hurry the railway to completion. The present government say they would take back the land grant, and give the company $4,000 a mile in cash. The Turner government had made the same offer to the company, and an agreement had already been signed by the company when the late government went out of power. The present government had said that they would vary the policy of their predecessors, but, instead of that, they were doing just what the Turner administration would have done. The line is 200 miles in length, which would mean $800,000. At the time the Turner government made the offer, the bonds of the province were selling in London at 104, and therefore it would not have been right at that time to have given bonds at par in lieu of the cash. It was all very well now, when the war in South Africa had reduced the value of all securities to give bonds at par in lieu of the taxes were in hand. The Finance had been correctly reported, it was the intention to build to Penticton. He challenged him to bring down papers to show that there was such an agreement. When the Turner government had brought down an act authorizing them to give cash in lieu of the land grant, the then opposition voted no; now they see it was the proper thing to do, and they have followed in our footsteps.

He would always endeavor to carry out contracts made by previous governments; the present administration had over-ridden acts passed by the legislature, but not without a great deal of trouble. He instanced the repudiation of the Victoria, Vancouver & Eastern Railway Act, and told of the difficulties that the government had had in inducing some of their followers to vote for the repudiation of that act. The policy of any government in British Columbia should be to carry out the construction of railways. When he first became a member of the house, there were rich mines in Kootenay, but no means of getting the ore out of the country. The government therefore undertook to build the Nakusp & Slocan, the Kaslo and Slocan, the Nelson & Fort Sheppard, the Robson & Nelson, and other lines, and as a result the revenue from Kootenay, which ten years ago was but $26,000, was now ten times that amount. It was not only the mines that had brought about this change, but the construction of railroads through the efforts of the late government.

Referring to the proposition to give the Boundary district a member in the legislature, Mr. Eberts said that all were satisfied that Boundary was entitled to a representative of the best kind, but until the act came down it was impossible to express an opinion as no explanation had been given as to the boundaries of the proposed constituency. They were told that Boundary was as rich as the Slocan country; if that were so, the district should certainly have a representative on the floor of the house.

The speech made mention of a proposed amendment to the Coal Mines Regulation Act, but no explanation had been given as to what the changes were to be—in fact, it was like pulling teeth to get an explanation out of the government on any question. Any act that was passed he hoped would be in the direction of ameliorating the condition of the men who work underground. If the act could in any way improve the conditions of those brave men, he would certainly support it.

The Licensing Act and the proposed changes was next taken up by Mr. Eberts. The act passed last session, he said, had been forced down the throats of the government, and they were now forced by public opinion to take it back. The men in the rural districts who conducted small hostelries were greatly overcharged by this act, having to pay $120 a year, as compared with $60 under the old act. Some of these hostelries were run on a very narrow margin, the profit being little or nothing, while they were a great benefit to travellers. There was such a hue and cry after the government that they were forced to mend their ways before the general election, which they thought could not be long delayed.

It was proposed, according to the speech from the throne, to open up the Omineca country. With this he quite agreed, but he would like to call the attention of the government and their followers to the fact that last session they had repudiated acts which had this object in view. The Ashcroft & Cariboo Railway company had been duly organized and thousands of dollars subscribed in London to carry on the work. The act chartering this company had been repudiated, and consequently the scheme to build the railway had fallen through. It was done because some of the members thought that the subsidy was too great, and they wanted the company to come back to the legislature and offer to carry out the work for a smaller land grant. It was impossible to get people to do that. The reason that there was no highway to Omineca to-day was because of the repudiation of that act. If the government opened up the Omineca country from the Coast or the Cariboo wagon road, they would be doing a great benefit to British Columbia. The southern portion of the province had proved immensely rich, and once developed, the northern portion would be a mine of wealth to the province. It was proposed to open up the Omineca country by a wagon road through the Kitimaat valley. The late government had authorized the building of a railway through the Kitimaat valley and right through to Teslin Lake, offering a subsidy of sixteen hundred thousand dollars for the purpose. That was a statesmanlike policy. It would have opened up a very rich portion of British Columbia, and would have bgiven an all-Canadian route to the Yukon. The government was to have received 4 per cent. of the earnings, and this, with the taxation of the railway, would have almost paid the cost to the government, while the Coast cities and the districts surrounding them would have been greatly benefited by the increased trade. A branch could easily have been built into the Omineca country. The present government proposed to build a wagon road thirty miles long through the Kitimaat valley; this, he considered, a measly policy, something like the policy of the Mackenzie government, who proposed using the lakes and rivers as a portion of the great overland route. The policy of the Turner government had met with the approval of the Dominion government, and he was sure that the federal authorities would have carrried out their promise to help open up the northern country.

The civil service and the beheading of a number of tried and faithful servants was next referred to by Mr. Eberts. Men who worked off and on for the government were allowed to vote, while others were not permitted to exercise their franchise. This he considered a cruel and unjust law, and when they appealed to the people the government would find that the large majority of voters were of the same opinion. The junior member for Victoria had spoken of the disfranchisement of the sailors and soldiers. Premier Semlin was a kind and genial gentleman, who no doubt tried to do what was right, but outside influences must have been brought to bear upon him when he dismissed tried servants of the crown. Could anybody say that Mr. Archibald Dick, late inspector of mines, was not an efficient steward—an honest man? But he, after 18 years' service, had been summarily dismissed. Mr. Roderick Tolmie, another old and faithful servant of the government, and the most efficient mining recorder British Columbia ever had, had been thrown out of office for some political purposes, and a Mr. McBeth put in his place. Nine months after Mr. McBeth took office it became necessary for the auditor to go through his books, and they were found in such a condition that Mr. McBeth was relieved of his office. Mr. Gosnell, secretary to the Premier, had been dropped off on a day's notice to make room for a henchman who could not be elected in Dewdney, and who had been rejected in Cowichan. He would also like to ask of the member for Cariboo why Mr. Stephenson had been dismissed. Was he guilty of any wrong or felonious act?

The Attorney-General—No felonious act.

Mr. Eberts was proceeding to refer to the dismissal of a Cariboo road boss when interrupted by Mr. Helgesen. He answered Mr. Helgesen by reminding him that he had never been further than Quesnelle Forks. He (Mr. Eberts) had come on the district from Ashcroft, stating that if that hon. gentleman ever visited that district he would get a refresher from eggs that hens couldn't hatch. Then, there was the dismissal of Mr. Sibbald, continued Mr. Eberts, against which a large number of citizens of Revelstoke had entered an objection, and what about his successor?

Mr. Kellie—He is a better man.

Mr. Eberts—A block of wood would suit you better. Politics were at the bottom of the dismissal.

Mr. Kellie—What about Sibbald?

Mr. Eberts—You will hear enough about him; you dare not malign him in Revelstoke.

The speaker next referred to the niggardly policy of the government in dealing with hospitals throughout the country. They had pinched them so close in regard to appropriations that it had almost forced several of them to close down. They proposed to give them $500 a year and 50 cents a day for patients. The people of Cariboo had stated that unless the government gave them more money the hospital would have to be closed, so out of the vote for destitute and sick persons the Cariboo hospital was given an additional thousand dollars. Then, there had been great dissension in Kamloops over the appropriation for the hospital at that place, and the member for North Yale had brought pressure to bear upon the government to get more.

Mr. Deane—And the government was quite willing to give it.

Mr. Eberts—That is just what I wanted. The people forced them to increase the appropriation. The hon. member had gone down on his knees to get more money for the hospital.

Mr. Deane—What you say is untrue.

Mr. Eberts appealed to the Speaker against the unparliamentary langauge of the hon. member for North Yale, and at the request of the Speaker Mr. Deane retracted his words, saying that he did not think he was unparliamentary, but when Mr. Eberts said that he went down on his keens he was saying something not in accordance with the facts.

THE SPEAKER—Does the member for South Victoria accept the explanation?

Mr. Eberts accepted the retraction because he was bound to do so. Surely the hon. member did not think that he meant that Mr. Deane had gone down on his knees before the members of the government; he had used the phrase in its generally accepted sense. He had always believed that men in the outlying districts should be afforded every convenience in the way of hospitals and medical treatment. They pass through trials which people in the cities did not even think of. Sufficient money should be voted to afford them good medical attendance. It were better that the province should lose $20,000 than that one of those men should lose a finger through not having help at the proper time.

Another act of the government which called for comment was the dismissal of a number of justices of the peace, men who had held office in some cases for twenty years and had done their best to preserve peace in their districts. In some cases, after pressure, the government had sent commissions to men who had been left off the list by them, but these were promptly refused.

The proposition to assist the Pacific cable was next referred to. This cable was to cost $18,000,000, one-third of which was to be borne by Canada, one-third by the Imperial government, and the balance by the Australian colonies. The Finance Minister, in a desire to make himself popular with the people, had offered, on behalf of the province, to give a million dollars towards the scheme. This he did without an order-in-council—even with which he would not have been right in doing it; it was an unlawful offer, and a futile one, for it was never intended to carry it out. The Australian colonies had a fiscal revenue which British Columbia had not, and therefore, this province could not undertake any such project. It was nonsensical to say that the action of the Finance Minister had forced the Imperial government to move in the matter. British Columbia had burdens enough of her own without taking up the burdens of the Canadian confederation. If the federal government did not have sufficient funds to carry out the project, the money could be raised by indirect taxation in all the provinces of the Dominion. The project did not even meet with the approbation of the members on the government side. The only satisfaction the member for North Yale could get out of it being that the prov had got a little cheap advertising.

The hon. gentleman pointed out the mining committee had voted ag the eight-hour clause being inseri the Mining Act. He believed that duty of the legislature was to ameli the condition of all men working u ground. If eight hours was long en for men to work, all right; but the c should not have been inserted by st fuge, and in the last hours of the sion. Notice should have been giv all concerned, for whether good o it had caused a great deal of troub the mining districts. Men were no ting their wages, and railways not able to meet their just demands. Nakusp & Slocan railway, 40 per of the earning of which came to th vince, would not return half as much year as during previous years, a Slocan country, from which it was was practically closed up by the hour law. It was the duty of the ernment to bring the miners and mine owners together and endeav have the question satisfactorily se

In closing, Mr. Eberts referred t war in South Africa, and the willin of Canadians to go there and figh their Queen and country. Terrib was the war, it was a great objec son, and would do much to cemen different portions of the Empire could not do better he said than with the worlds of the National Ant

O Lord our God, arise,
Scatter her enemies
And make them fall.
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks;
On Thee our hopes we fix,
God save us all.

THE SPEAKER, at the concl of Mr. Eberts' speech, referred to language used by Mr. Deane in i rupting Mr. Eberts, and said that had been considerable unparliame language used during the session, hereafter he would have to put it

MR. HELMCKEN, after cong lating the moyer and seconder of th d