Weekly Colonist

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BY

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TWO "TIMES."

The Hamilton *Times* is an ultra-Grit organ. What has it to say of the Fisheries treaty which its *confreres* so roundly abuse, and in which they see a wilful giving away of Canada's rights? After referring to the matter generally, it asks:

But, after all, what does it amount to? The Yankees want to send fish to Boston over Canadian railways. Won't the railways get full pay for all the service they render? The Yankees want to buy ice, food, seines, wood and water. They mean to pay for all these things, and the sellers will obtain employment and profit. Why should Canada play the part of a dog in the manger? Let the Yankees "touch" and "trade"—the more the better—and if they fish within the three-mile limit let Professor Foster catch them if he can. The task cannot be much harder than that of catching violators of the Scott Act.

If the Yankee fishermen respect the terms of the treaty, and keep outside of the three-mile limit, they won't get many fish. Professor Hind supplies a scientific explanation of the reasons why the food of the fish and the water of suitable temperature for the fish to live in are found close to the shores of Prince Edward, of Labrador and of Quebec. If they do not respect the treaty terms—if they poach and Professor Foster's cruisers cannot catch them—will they ruin the Canadian inshore fisheries? We think not. The fish were as plentiful on the Canadian coasts in 1866 as in 1854—in 1885 as in 1871. Hon. Joseph Howe says: "As for the destruction of the fisheries, when one thinks that the cods of thirty cod supply all the waste of the American, British and Colonial fisheries, it is not worth while to discuss that question."

We do not think there is any reason to be indignant over what the commissioners did at Washington. * * * If the Yankees are tickled over the treaty they are thankful for small favors, and if the Canadians are angry at it they are mad at a trifle.

These Grit journals are not "brothers all." The difference is that one, like the Hamilton *Times*, views the matter from an intelligent standpoint with all the facts before it, while the other, like the Victoria *Times*, writes it down without the slightest knowledge of the details, in a vain effort to do the Dominion Government an injustice. Our Hamilton contemporary seems to be in its general policy even more Gritty than the Toronto *Globe*—its rebuke to such mouthings as emanate from the local Grit organ is all the stronger.

A TRUE SON OF CANADA.

A history of the means by which Canadian honors were obtained by some Canadian statesmen would form most interesting reading. Sir Edward Watkin threw a little light upon this subject in his recent work on Canada, and Sir John Macdonald has followed suit. Some of his Toronto admirers have ventured to hope that it is not "beyond the bounds of probability that Her Most Gracious Majesty, whom you have so faithfully served, may at no distant day confer on you even greater favors than those you now wear; and should the result be your promotion to a position nearer the Throne, we would all feel that the honors have been well deserved and gallantly won." Sir John's reply on this point is worthy of note, placing on record, as it does, an interesting page in his personal history:—

In the address, you hint at the possibility of my receiving more honors at the hands of our Sovereign. I may say of the honors I have already received at her hands that they have all come from Her Majesty, and I now take the opportunity of stating that from the first to the last of them they were given to me without any suggestion or request of mine. They came to me without my knowing that they were coming. From the first honour that I received at her hands until the last, that of getting the Grand Cross of the Bath, I was taken by surprise. I have particular pleasure in stating that the first intimation that I had that I was going to receive the last honour, the Grand Cross of the Bath, was a note from that great statesman, then Prime Minister of England, Mr. Gladstone, which told me that Her Majesty had authorized him to offer me on account of my long and distinguished services that crowning honor of my career. Great, however, as my appreciation of these honours has been, I must state frankly, notwithstanding how loyal and British I am, I feel still more highly the honours that have been conferred upon me and the confidence invested in me by the people of Canada. I know well that, looking back upon my political life, I have made mistakes. Every statesman, if he were candid, must make the same admission; but I will say this for myself, that anything I have done, any step I have taken, either in legislation or in administration—that in every step, whether they have been right or wrong, I acted according to the best of my judgment and my conscience in taking these steps and submitting these measures to the representatives of the people for their adoption.

THE DIGNITY OF LABOR.

A merchant and manufacturer in a neighboring American city has recently expressed his views as to the manner in which that city may become a great manufacturing centre. In doing so he has some just and appropriate remarks relative to the matter of education. He charges, in effect, that not enough pains are taken in modern schools to impress upon the youth the dignity of labor. In his own business, his rule has been to give the preference, for the purpose of learning a trade, to a graduate of the high school of the city; but he has found in every instance that they want a clerkship and not a trade. He declares that if a citizen wants a horse shod, a house plastered, a wall laid or a chimney built he must apply to a foreigner. The reason for this he finds in the American home and the American school, and expresses himself in the following vigorous language:

I believe we ought to put out of our houses, out of our school houses and out of our educational system that false, abominable, miserable, damnable destroyer of American prosperity, the idea that honest work is not as honorable as a dudeship or a clerkship. I believe that the honest hands, soiled though they be with the shoe blacking or the soot of the anvil or the cinders of the machine shop will wash clean, while the shrivelled, dried up, starved and famished nature of the other never can be swelled out to its fulness again.

This is plain talk, but it is a kind of talk of which the world stands in need. The evil of which the gentleman complains is not restricted to a city or a state. It is found in Canada, in British Columbia, as well as in the neighboring Republic. Not that education in itself is a misfortune, but that there is either encouraged or tacitly permitted to grow with it the notion that it places young men on a more respectable basis than those who earn their bread by manual toil, and that in some way this superior dignity must be maintained. It is gratifying to note, however, that the evil is becoming more recognized; and that from many sources there comes a demand for reform in this direction. Industrial schools are slowly making way, and the general demand for greater practical results from school training is bearing fruit in the more practical spirit that begins to pervade our educational system. No more worthy or faithful lesson than the dignity of labor can be impressed upon the minds of our youth.

LORD DUFFERIN.

It is perhaps safe to say that no more popular Governor-General ever represented his Sovereign in Canada than Lord Dufferin. While it is regretted that he will not serve his full term as Viceroy in India, it is gratifying to know that private reasons, and neither disagreement with the Government at home nor any failure of health and strength, are the cause of his retiring at the end of four years. As the London *Times* says, it is not to be supposed that so valuable a man will be allowed to remain for any long time unemployed. He has been a public servant in one capacity or another ever since 1860, when Lord Palmerston sent him as British Commissioner to Syria, after the Lebanon massacres. For some years after that date, while the Liberal party was in power, he filled various offices, until, in 1872, he came to Canada as Governor-General. Here his rule was brilliant and epoch-making, and he impressed the North American continent, as he had previously impressed the mother country, with a sense of his consummate abilities. From Canada, after a short interval, he passed to the far more difficult post of Ambassador at St. Petersburg, six months after the signing of the Berlin Tre ty. Thence, after two important years, he was moved to the still more arduous embassy at Constantinople, where he remained all through the period of the Egyptian war, when the relations between Great Britain and Turkey were of a strained and anxious kind. After this, and while still holding the position of ambassador, he went on his celebrated mission to Egypt, charged with the task of reorganising that country, shattered as it was by the rebellion of Arabi and the forcible intervention of England. A year afterwards, on the retirement of Lord Ripon, he was appointed to succeed him as Viceroy of India; this appointment, like those of earlier years, coming from Mr. Gladstone, while Lord Beaconsfield had shown how thoroughly Lord Dufferin had commended himself to the opposite party when, five years before, he had made him Ambassador to the Czar. What services Lord Dufferin is yet to render to his country is uncertain, but it may be assumed that his occupation, in default of such a reconstruction of the Cabinet as should give him admission to it as a Liberal Unionist, will be of a diplomatic nature. There is more than one European capital, at this critical moment, where the tact, the experience, the penetrating insight, and the firm will of Lord Dufferin might be of the greatest possible service to the country. It is hinted that he will find full scope for all these in Italy. Endeared to the people of this country by all his loveable qualities of heart and mind, we follow his future with an earnestness accorded no other British statesman or diplomat, Mr. Gladstone excepted.

Fine Portraits.

When you go to Victoria do not fail to have your photograph taken by HALL & LOWE. Pictures taken by us are clear and brilliant and as beautifully finished as any on the coast, San Francisco not excepted. If you have any old pictures that you want copied or enlarged, send them to us and we will guarantee satisfaction. HALL & LOWE, Photographers, Government Street. Cut this out and put it in your pocket-book. *

New Opening on Yates Street.

This evening Messrs. R. Atwood & Co. will open their new Drug store on Yates street, opposite the Poodle Dog Hotel, where a full line of Toilet Articles, Perfumery, Chemicals, &c, can be found. Physicians' prescriptions carefully compounded day and night. 1m*

THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Proceedings of the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament.

EIGHTEENTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 29th.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:10 p. m. Prayers were read by Ven. Archdeacon Scriven.

PETITIONS.

Col. Baker presented a petition from R. Lang and others, and one from F. C. Lang and others, Kootenay.

Mr. Beaven presented a petition from 1,289 male and female residents of Victoria, praying that the legislature pass an act closing all liquor selling places after midnight until six in the morning, and during all of Sunday, and also that the number be limited proportionally to that of the population; also that machinery be organized for carrying out such act.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys presented a petition of similar character from residents of Comox.

The petitions from Nicola, Kamloops, Vancouver, Westminster, Nanaimo, Westminster district, were read and received.

PRIVILEGE.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys said that there was a telegram in the Ottawa *Free Press*, sent by the Associated Press agent in this city, stating that "language was used by Humphreys of a vituperative character, probably the worst used in any open deliberative body on the continent." He considered this a reflection upon Mr. Speaker and members of the house, and some means should be taken to prevent reports of such character being distributed broadcast. Personally he did not care a button about it, for he considered abuse such as had been unstintingly dealt out to him until he believed himself the best abused man on the continent, was rather an honor. He trusted the press would take note of his remarks.

KOOTENAY RAILWAY COMPANY.

Col. Baker asked leave to introduce a bill to incorporate the Kootenay and Columbia Railway Co.

Leave granted. Bill read a first time and referred to the private bills committee.

NICOLA MINING CO.

Mr. Martin asked leave to introduce a bill to enable the Nicola Mining Co., Limited, of London, to hold lands in the province of British Columbia, and for other purposes.

Leave granted; the bill was received and referred to the private bills committee to report.

OFFICIAL STENOGRAPHERS.

Mr. Bole, moved, seconded by Mr. Grant — That it is, in the opinion of this house, desirable that the government should introduce legislation to provide official stenographers in connection with this house and the supreme court.

The hon. mover said the resolution was one that did not require discussion. It was the opinion of the majority of members of this house that such an appointment was required here. In the English house of commons many of the notable speeches delivered there would have been lost to posterity had not that publication known as *Hansard*, been issued. The Ottawa house also employed stenographers, and issued *Hansard*, and it was found in each case that they were of great benefit. The local press had to cater to the public taste, and always skipped over the honeyed sweets that were to be found in the deliberations of this legislative body. He had only been in the house two sessions but had come to the conclusion that if an official publication was made of a stenographer's report of debates the business of the country would proceed with greater rapidity. If all speeches made were to be placed on record hon. gentlemen would not be so prone to exhaustive debate. It was discouraging, to say the least when a member had taken several days to hunt up the information contained in his remarks, to find that in the newspaper he was given three lines report. There was a great deal of important matter that would, by issuing a *Hansard* be preserved for furture reference. In the supreme court, it was also desirable that in important cases everything connected with the proceedings should be taken down verbatim. It would enable the history of a case which had occupied several days, to be presented to the jury in an intelligent shape. The judge's notes were naturally fragmentary, and as each counsel took down points which he considered in his favor, when the case came to be argued the absence of a record of the evidence frequently caused disagreement. In the United States the introduction of stenographers in the law courts had been productive of the highest benefit. There was only one thing to be considered as in opposition to the employment of stenographers and that was the question of cost, but he thought the benefits to accrue would more than repay for the outlay.

Hon. Mr. Robson said as far as the resolution referred to the courts, he quite endorsed the remarks of the hon. mover of this resolution. The government had for some time been considering the expediency of appointing court stenographers. But with regard to the employment of stenographers to report the proceedings of this house, he trusted that the hon. gentleman would allow an amendment expunging that from the resolution. While it would not be a great cost to employ several stenographers to take notes, yet to extend those notes and print them would require a very large expenditure, how much he could not say, but it would go far into the thousands, and he did not think the country would endorse such an expenditure. He sincerely hoped that the hon. mover would allow an amendment to his resolution limiting the recommendation to the supreme court.

Mr. Grant said he had introduced a resolution similar in intent the other day, but he had only intended that notes of speeches should be taken down, and not printed. It would allow of utterances and promises of hon. members to be accurately taken down, and would settle disputed points when they arose. He did not think that in case remarks were printed that hon. members would make longer speeches; it would tend to shorten them.

Mr. Bole said he would accept the suggestion and amend his resolution so as to confine it to the supreme court—half a loaf was better than no bread.

Hon. Theo. Davie said he would move the amendment limiting the employment of stenographers to the supreme court—seconded by Mr. Allen. The adoption of a system of shorthand reporting in connection with the courts was imperative. Such a system would shorten the course of legal proceedings and was in force in all other places. Appellate proceedings would be nugatory without an accurate record of what was appealed from and the present provision requiring the judge to make a report of the evidence and all exceptions was entailing too much mechanical work on the judge, besides being unsatisfactory to litigants. Lately parties to suits had employed stenographers, but as they were not officers of the court their reports were not accepted as authentic. There ought to be three or at least two stenographers. The system would become largely self sustaining by the fees which could be charged. Speaking for the profession he could say that as a hint they would support the proposal. Referring to the delay in rendering judgments alluded to the previous day by Mr. Grant he, Mr. Davie, was not aware that there was any general cause for complaint on this head. Whenever delay had occurred it was attributable to the defective system of sending judges off to do County Court work. He had always found that, except for this cause, judgments were rendered promptly.

Mr. Beaven asked how these proposed reporters would be employed when not at the court, and what had become of the $250 which was devoted to the reporting of judgments by the legislature.

Hon. Mr. Davie said it was not necessary to devote any more money to reporting judgments rendered, and there was now quite a respectable volume of such judgments, which were of the utmost value to the province. In England there were a large number of authorized and unauthorized volumes, and reports were extensively published in the United States and in Canada, and also in the various provinces. The present proposition was an entirely different one from the reporting of judgments—it was for the purpose of reporting everything that transpired in the court during the progress of a case—evidence, objections, discussions, and exceptions of counsel.

Hon. Mr. Beaven asked how the stenographer's notes would reach the public.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that it was not intended that they should reach the public. If any other than those interested desired a copy, it could be procured by paying the same fee demanded from litigants.

Mr. Bole said that there seemed to be a misconception in regard to the employment of stenographers. It was not intended that the reports should go to the public, but that the proceedings in the case be fully and accurately reported in order that the strictest justice should be done to all concerned.

Mr. Beaven said that what he wanted to know was whether the stenographers would report the decisions of judges as delivered in court. There was a complaint by the public that the judgments as reported were not as delivered, and he thought that it was in the public's interests that such decisions should be reported in the same way as delivered. So far as the stenographers being constantly employed, he did not think that such would be the case, or that they would be self-supporting. He understood the judges hardly ever commenced work until noon; and what were stenographers to be doing until then?

Hon. Mr. Davie said the reporting of proceedings would also include the taking down of judgments as rendered, but he must say that he had invariably found that the decisions as reported by the judges agreed with their judgments as rendered. With regard to the remark that the judges did not commence work until noon, he could say that his experience did not show that, but when there was important business to be done he had always found the judges ready at the proper hour.

Mr. Beaven was not satisfied that the stenographers would be sufficiently employed during the year.

Hon. Mr. Davie and other members explained that one day's work in the courts would require five day's time to extend the notes taken.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys did not favor the appointment of court stenographers. He did not think it necessary, and as they had got along thirty years without them, he considered the cost too great, and that the appointment was in favor of a certain class only.

A question of procedure was here argued and reserved for decision by Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that he hoped that before voting the resolution down they would consider the importance of the appointment to the province. At the present time the report of a case was in the hands of the judge, who could not be expected to keep exact notes of the evidence and all the proceedings. He had frequently seen cases where on being taken to a higher court; a dispute instantly occurred as to what had taken place in the lower court. Litigation was growing and in order to have a proper review of any case it was of vital necessity to have a complete record of the proceedings in the lower court. Twenty years ago there was little endeavor made to have an appellate court here, and what was put up with then afforded no guide now, but of late litigation had been growing and so far as the resolution being introduced in favor of any particular class he could emphatically state that such was not the case. It was in the best interest of the province and he trusted that hon. gentleman would consider it so in voting upon the resolution.

After further discussion Mr. Bole, in closing the debate, said there was some misconception in the matter so far as this being of any assistance to the lawyers; it was rather in favor of the public in taking a case from a lower to a higher court. It was his opinion that a litigant would be only too willing to employ a short-hand reporter. He knew of a case where costs of $950 would have been saved had short-hand notes of the case been taken. He thought it would be found that the appointment of court stenographers would not entail any cost upon the country, for two reporters could be secured at $900 per year each, and this sum would be recouped in fees to litigants. While favoring the amendment, he would also urge that the strictest economy be observed in carrying out the proposition. It was a step in the right direction, and would greatly aid correct procedure in the courts. He hoped that the future would lead to the introduction of reporters on the floors of the house.

The resolution, as amended, carried.

SUMAS LANDS.

Mr. Ladner, on the motion for an order for papers in connection with the Sumas dyking lands, asked the hon. leader of the government when they would be brought down.

Hon. Mr. Robson said that the province was administering the lands, the settlers were securing their titles, and were quite content with the course. He could not see the reason for the hon. gentleman creating such a fuss over the matter.

Mr. Ladner said he had sufficient reason for his action, which he would explain later.

AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPALITY ACT.

Mr. Ladner asked leave to introduce a bill intituled, "An Act to alter and amend the Municipality Amendment Act, 1887."

Leave granted; bill read a first time; second reading on Friday next.

SUPREME COURT FEES.

Mr. Bole asked the hon. Attorney-General what steps had been taken to carry out the provisions of act No. 10, 1887, having reference to the rules and fees of the supreme court.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that three gentlemen were appointed a commission to carry out the provisions of the act.—Hon. Justice Crease, Hon. Justice Walkem, and Mr. Drake, Q.C. He had caused a communication to be sent to those gentlemen asking what had been done, but as yet had not obtained a reply.

GRANVILLE SQUATTERS.

Mr. Orr moved, seconded by Mr. Martin—That the select committee appointed to enquire and report to this house whether any *bona fide* or other occupants, having occupied or made substantial improvements on lots in the townplot of Granville previous to Mr. Van Horne's visit, have been allowed to purchase their locations at the price of $200, as stipulated in the bargain for the cession of 6,000 acres at Coal Harbor and English Bay by the government of British Columbia to the Canadian Pacific Railway company, or to trustees on their behalf; with power to call for persons, books and papers, be instructed to include in their enquiries, or any *bona fide* applicants to purchase any of said lots, such words to be inserted in the third line, between the words Granville and previous.

Mr. Higgins said that in nearly every instance the squatters had tendered the money—some as far back as 1883, and nearly all the evidence so far received had tended in favor of this resolution, which he would warmly support.

The resolution passed.

LICENSE ORDINANCE.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Licences Ordinance, 1867.'"

Hon. Mr. Beaven contended that the bill was out of order, as no bill could be introduced in the house which in any way affected trades without the consent of the house being first obtained. All such bills should be embodied in a resolution to come up in the usual way.

Hon. Mr. Davie consented to defer the introduction of the bill.

CARIBOO MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. McLeese, whereas the postmaster-general of Canada has called for tenders for the conveyance of H. M. mails between Clinton and Barkerville; and whereas the notice inviting tenders does not provide for passenger accommodation—only asks as a guarantee for the satisfactory performance of the work that the contractor should be bound with two sureties in the sum of $5,000, and seeks to divide the service into two or more contracts; and whereas under former contracts the Dominion government stipulated for the conveyance of these mails in a four-horse passenger coach, and bound the contractors with two sureties in a sum of $20,000, as a guarantee that the service would be faithfully performed; and whereas the present contractors have not been bound to furnish a passenger coach, the result of which has been found detrimental to the public interest; Resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that His Honor will urge upon the Dominion government the importance of maintaining the service efficiently between Clinton and Barkerville, with a four-horse passenger coach during the summer months, and not less than a two-horse passenger vehicle during the winter months, and that the contractors be held with two sureties under a bond of $10,000, as a satisfactory guarantee that the work will be properly performed.

The hon. mover said there was great necessity for this resolution. Hon gentlemen would see at once that it was of the greatest importance to the isolated district of Cariboo that a proper passenger coach service should be maintained as in the past, otherwise no means would be available for settlers or visitors to reach the district. A properly maintained passenger coach and mail service was also a very important factor in settling up the district, especially over a road of nearly three hundred miles in length, traversing the heart of the province; besides the mining district of Cariboo demanded that suitable means of communication should be kept up between the mines and the railway, for then capitalists and others could be induced to visit a region that would otherwise be most difficult to reach. The present contractors not having been bound by the Dominion government to maintain a passenger service posted up notices that they would not be responsible for any accidents or delays that might befall them. It was a wonder they did not go a step further and state that they would only carry passengers as a favor. This was a peculiar way to induce travel—it seemed to him that the company were endeavoring to keep people out of the district. If the Dominion government intended to carry out the present policy it was a manifestly unfair one. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. McLeese in seconding the resolution said the present service was little better than a fast freight line and it was anything but comfortable for passenger service. He trusted that the resolution would have the effect sought.

Mr. Bole said although matters were not so prosperous in Cariboo as heretofore, yet it was not desirable that any of their conveniences of communication or mails should be removed. He considered that the Dominion government was exercising a cheese-paring policy in reducing the amount devoted to this mail service. Cariboo district had contributed greatly to the wealth of the province and he trusted would again in the future. He would heartily support the resolution.

Mr. Allen complimented the introducer of the resolution for bringing the matter before the house. The present system was anything but satisfactory both as regards mails and express and the matter should be brought strongly before the authorities.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys favored the resolution. He knew from personal experience the loose manner in which the passenger service had been performed—the freight was taken better care of than the passengers.

Mr. Grant said mail service to isolated districts was a matter in which he felt greatly interested. He trusted that an improvement in this direction would be made. He sympathized with the present effort.

The resolution carried unanimously.

NEW WESTMINSTER CHARTER.

Mr. Bole asked leave to introduce an act to incorporate the city of New Westminster.

Leave granted; bill read a first time and referred to the private bills committee.

PUBLIC ROAD.

Mr. Orr moved, seconded by Mr. Ladner, that an address be presented to his honor praying for a return of all orders in council, letters and correspondence relating to the gazetting the public road from Ladner's Landing to the townships' line dividing townships 5 and 6, New Westminster district—Carried.

LEGAL PROFESSIONS ACT.

Mr. Higgins moved the second reading of a bill to amend the "Legal Professions Act." He said that the bill should properly have emanated from a legal member of the house; but that last session, although there were three members of the legal profession on the floor none had moved in that direction. Therefore, he felt it incumbent on him to try and break down the present barriers so as to make the profession at least reciprocal in its character. He did not think of all the learned professions that of the law should be the only one protected by legislation of a restrictive character and hedged about with privileges that no other profession asked or would get if they did ask. A doctor, a civil engineer, a school teacher could embark in the practice of his profession as soon as he landed here; but a barrister or solicitor must wait and, perhaps, starve for one year before he dared to engage in practice. Was this right? In the bill he guarded against the admission of improper characters, and only those members of the profession from provinces where the same privilege was extended to lawyers from our own province could be admitted here on giving two months' notice. It was a libel on our young lawyers to say that they could not compete with intellects from abroad; and supposing they could not, they would have an opportunity to sit at the feet of Gamaliels from the east and receive instruction that would soon enable them to compete with the best men from the bar of any other country. Ontario extended the same privilege the bill asked to barristers from this province, and as an act of simple justice he asked that British Columbia should not be one step behind her older sister in liberality and fairness. Let the house pass this bill and so hold out the hand to legal gentlemen to cross the mountains to come among us and enjoy the blessings of our Italian sky and banana climate (hear and laughter.)

Mr. Martin said the present bill was an old stalking-horse of the opposition, but it had now been taken up by the ambitious legislator from Esquimalt district. The bill was brought in for the purpose of allowing the introduction of inferior men from the eastern provinces, simply for the purpose of cheating the young men now here out of their birthright. He would move that the bill be read this day six months.

Mr. Allen seconded.

Hon. Mr. Robson said he would support the bill. He could not see why a member of any profession should be excluded from this province. The provisions of the bill were manifestly fair, and instead of being an injury to the province would be a benefit. He had a son who was studying law, and he thought that the introduction of shrewd lawyers from other portions of the Dominion would, by bringing them into contact, benefit the young men who were now endeavoring to rise in their profession. So far as the remark that only third or fourth-rate men would come in, if our sons could not compete with them so much the worse for them. He could not see the utility of building a Chinese wall around the province. Let the doors be opened wide to all except perhaps the Chinese. He certainly would give his hearty support to the measure.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys thought that the bar of the province at present would not compare favorably with the bar as composed some years ago and he thought that this state of things simply existed because of the "legal professions act." Gentlemen high in their profession had stated that the reason they did not come here was because they objected to being examined before what they termed a number of school-boys. Let the door be opened wide. He thought the thanks of the community were due the hon. introducer for bringing the matter before the house, for it would, if passed, widen their choice in the selection of a lawyer. He did not intend his remarks to be taken as personal—what he desired was an honest, fair expression of opinion. Let each member speak out boldly and not timorously state his convictions. He would heartily support the measure, though he did not think it went far enough.

Mr. Bole said he had not intended to say anything in this question, but he would take advantage of the remarks of the hon. member for Comox and strike forth boldly and above the belt. He thought now that the hon. member for Esquimalt had taken up the rottenest plank in the Opposition platform, he ought to be considered a member of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition. (Laughter and applause). He was not gratified, however, with the text that had converted him. (Laughter). He hoped, however, that now that he had come over, he would take hold upon one of the strong planks of the Opposition. (Laughter). The bill placed himself and hon. acting attorney-general on trial, and he thought he would take the course frequently followed in the case of a prisoner, and throw himself on the mercy of the house (laughter.) The hon. gentleman then proceeded in a very happy style to discuss the bill, frequently convulsing the house with his wit and good humor. He was certain that the passage of this bill would not bring about the happy results affairs predicted; in fact, they would find that it would operate adversely to their expectations. He would vote with the amendment.

Mr. Beaven moved the adjournment of the debates to be resumed Thursday.

House adjourned.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys, on Friday next—To move: Whereas THE COLONIST newspaper has persistently vilified the undersigned, a member of this legislative assembly; whereas such gross slander is calculated to bring this legislature and its members into disrepute and contempt; be it therefore resolved that this house do proceed to censure the proprietors of THE COLONIST newspaper, for their reprehensible conduct.

Col. Baker, on Friday next—To move: That the report from the select committee appointed to enquire into the charges brought by the Hon. T. B. Humphreys against the Hon. R. Dunsmuir, president of the council, be adopted.

Mr. Semlin, on Friday next—To move: That in the opinion of this house it is desirable that two additional polling places in the Yale district be established, one on Grand prairie and one at McKinney's on Rock creek.

Mr Grant, on Monday next—To move: Whereas, a number of British sealing vessels, used in the lawful avocation of catching seals in the Behring sea, outside the three-mile limit, were seized by cruisers of the United States of America; their appliances, cargoes and catch confiscated, and their officers and crew imprisoned, thus inflicting serious personal and pecuniary injury upon British subjects; and whereas, up to the end of the first year the officers of the government of the Dominion of Canada failed to notify the owners of British vessels when clearing at the custom house for the purpose of proceeding to Behring sea to engage in seal catching that they did so at their own risk; be it therefore resolved, that a respectful address be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor requesting him to move the Dominion government to compensate the owners of British vessels for the losses thus incurred and to obtain from the United States authorities a reimbursement of the sum so expended.

Hon. Mr. Davie, on Friday next—To move, that this house do immediately resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider "An Act to amend the License Ordinance, 1867."

QUESTIONS.

Hon. Mr. Beaven, on Monday next—To ask the hon. Provincial Secretary: Will tenders be invited for the binding connected with the revision of the statutes and other departmental government work during the present year?

Mr. Higgins, on Friday next—To ask the hon. Attorney-General: What steps, if any, have been taken to carry out the provisions of "An act relating to the practice and procedure of the supreme court," passed by this house at its last session?

NINETEENTH DAY.

THURSDAY, March 1.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:45 o'clock.

Prayers were said by the Rev. Mr. Beanlands.

PETITIONS.

The petitions from residents of Victoria and Comox in reference to the liquor traffic were read and received and ordered to be printed.

All petitions on the same subject were ordered to be printed.

The petition from Kootenay residents was to the effect that it was desirable to appoint a competent person to superintend the expenditure of public monies in the district. Read and received and ordered to be printed.

The petition asking for a bridge across the Kicking Horse river was ruled out of order.

REPORTS.

Mr. Duck presented a report of the select committee appointed to draft an address to the governor-general in reference to the steamship service between Victoria and San Francisco, as per terms of union. The address requested that the terms of union be adhered to strictly, and that the steamship subsidy be continued as before.

Report received.

CROW'S NEST RAILWAY.

Col. Baker asked leave to introduce a bill incorporating the "Crow's Nest and Kootenay Railway Company."

Leave granted; bill read a first time and referred to the railway committee.

BEHRING'S SEA SEALERS.

Mr. Higgins moved, seconded by Mr. Duck: Whereas, it is reported that a joint commission of Great Britain and the United States, which lately sat at Washington to prepare a new international fisheries treaty, have reached a settlement upon a basis satisfactory to the said commission, so far as the Atlantic fisheries are concerned;

And whereas, it is further reported that the said joint commission have concluded their labors without having made provision to assure the freedom from seizure by American cruisers of British vessels while such vessels are engaged in the peaceful and lawful calling of catching seals in Behring's Sea;

And whereas, serious personal and pecuniary injury has been inflicted upon British subjects involving, in at least one instance, life, from the seizure of Canadian vessels in said sea by American cruisers, the confiscation of their cargoes and the imprisonment of their officers and crews;

And whereas, this house is of opinion that the contention of the United States government that Behring's Sea is a closed sea is an arbitrary assumption which is justified neither by international law, treaty nor precedence;

Therefore be it resolved, That this house learns with feelings of surprise, regret and indignation of the failure of the said joint commission to consider the claims of British Columbia fishermen who have suffered in consequence of the seizure of their vessels and persons whilst engaged in catching seals in said Behring Sea; and that this house hereby earnestly protests against the evident sacrifice of the claims of British subjects by the neglect or refusal of the British members of said joint commission to consider those claims, as being a practical surrender (for the time being at least) of the rights of British subjects on the Pacific coast.

Resolved, that a copy of the above preamble and resolution be transmitted to the government at Ottawa for their action.

The hon. mover said that the circumstances of this matter, one of grave importance to the province and the whole English speaking world, were fresh in the minds of hon. members, and he did not propose occupying much of the time of the house in discussing them; but there were some points upon which it was necessary to touch in explanation of his action. It was claimed by the Canadian and British governments that Behring's Sea is an open sea. That contention is supported by Secretary Bayard, of the United States government, and opposed by the department of justice of the same government. It was a well known fact that Secretary Bayard was not in accord with the attorney-general of the United States on this point, and although he had on several occasions expressed his intention of liberating the vessels seized, he had been overruled by the cabinet and his good intentions frustrated. The historical facts of the case were, briefly, that in 1821 Russia, having renewed the lease or charter of the Russian Fur Trading company for exclusive trading and fishing privileges in the Alaskan territory, then the property of Russia, issued an edict forbidding the fishermen and traders of other countries from coming Behring's Sea or prosecuting their callings therein. This led to a diplomatic controversy between the United States, Great Britain and Russia, in the course of which Russia laid claim to the exclusive control of the whole Pacific ocean. This absurd pretension was speedily abandoned and a treaty was signed granting the subjects of the United States and Great Britain to trade and fish in the inland seas, inlets, gulfs and creeks of the Alaskan territory for the period of ten years. At the end of the period specified, the right to fish and trade in the inlets, gulfs and creeks of Alaska was withdrawn, but an effort was again made to assert exclusive privileges in Behring's sea. The vessels of all nations resorted there in pursuit of whales undisturbed. In 1867 the Russian government, for the sum of seven million dollars, sold to the United States the Territory of Alaska. In 1869 the United States government leased to the Alaska Commercial Company the exclusive right to take fur seal in the waters adjacent to the territory; but as late as 1872, as evidenced by a dispatch from Mr. Boutwell, then secretary of the United States Treasury, who in reply to a request made to him on behalf of the Alaska Commercial Co. to prevent vessels other than those of the company from seal fishing in Behring's sea, replied that the United States had not the power to exclude such vessels if they did not fish within a marine league of the shore. Some three years ago the United States government seem to have obtained new light on the subject, for we find them about that time asserting a right to prevent any but company's vessels resorting to the Behring's sea within an imaginary line drawn from the centre of Behring's Strait to the 50th parallel of latitude, opposite the Aleutian islands. The sea preserves of the company are therefore 3,000 miles long by 2,700 miles wide. The company usurp the power of the government over land and sea and use and direct government ships in committing outrages on all vessels but their own that may venture into the forbidden sea. What are the governments of Great Britain and Canada doing to uphold the rights of their subjects? Evidently nothing, for we find that within a few days past the customs officers at Victoria have been notified from Ottawa that if any British sealing vessels should go to Behring's sea they would do so at their own risk. Mr. Drake's *factum* shows that the company are as much pirates as were Morgan's buccaneers of the Spanish Main. They have grabbed the ocean, ignored international rights, seized our vessels without warrant or authority, imprisoned their crews, and scattered their cargoes and converted Behring's sea into the private lake of a gigantic monopoly rich enough and wicked enough to control legislation and bend officials to their purposes, indifferent if the result should involve the two great English speaking people in war.

Hon. Mr. Robson said the hon. gentleman who had introduced the matter deserved considerable credit for the able way in which he had done so. However, he trusted that the word "indignation" would be eliminated from the resolution. He might here say that the matter was one which had occupied his attention at Ottawa, and he must give the Dominion government credit for their efforts in the case. It was thought desirable not to include the Behring's sea question with the fisheries question, for it was held that the matter was one which concerned all nations, and not only the United States and Great Britain. The question would be submitted to an international commission, and the Dominion government felt perfectly confident that the position taken by the United States was utterly untenable. It was therefore considered impolitic to incorporate it with the fisheries question. Great Britain had had no official notification that the United States had set up any such contention, but from some semi-official communications which had passed it was quite possible that the Americans would not make any such contention. The claims first sent in by the sealers to Ottawa were of so extravagant a character that they had to be sent back for revision. This might account for a portion of the delay, but he thought that some definite conclusion should have been arrived at before this in regard to the position in which our sealers would be placed should they again enter the Behring's sea. He did not see any reason why the resolution should not pass, but he trusted that the word "indignation" would be expunged.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys thought British Columbia should answer back in as strong a style as possible. The stronger the language the better.

Mr. Grant thought that both Imperial and Dominion governments were to blame for their lack of energy in prosecuting this dispute. The claim of the Americans was absurd on the face of it and would prove so when brought before a proper court of enquiry. The losses sustained by sealers had been severe, though the total amount was insignificant as between nations. He had given notice of a resolution which dealt with the matter from a different standpoint. He thought if the United States was not to bear the cost, the Dominion government should because they had issued no notification