THE VICTORIA WEEKLY TIMES, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 189.

MR. DAVIE UNDER FIRE.

Mr. Helmcken Refuses to be Bullitéd dozed by the Premier and

Attorney-General.

Premier Davie's Charge of Forgery Completely Exploded Yesterday.

A Very Lame Explanation of the Parliament Buildings Muddle.

FIFTY-FOURTH DAY. Thursday, Feb. 14.

The speaker took the chair at two o'clock. Prayers by Rev. Dr. Campbell.

Hon. Mr. Davie moved that the secend report of the select committee to had to report. He blamed himself for inquire into matters relating to the parhament buildings contracts be referred back to the committee for further conble. sideration and report.

The mover contended that in discussing the motion the other day he had not attacked the committee, much less made a violent attack, although he did done , the government considering that say that the chairman of the committee they had ample security, there being a was principally to blame. Afterwards, cheque for two per cent. of the contract, however, he exonerated him from any the 25 per cent. that was to be held partiality in the matter.

Mr. Williams rose to a point of order. ered ample without bondsmen, especial-He did not think the house could prop- ly considering that the province would erly go into the report until the evidence save \$15,000 by dispensing with the had been printed and laid before the bondsmen. The report leaves the inmembers. There was a ruling to that ference that all the security the governeffect brought about by a point of order brought by the attorney-general himself. \$26.33, the difference between the value The members of the house could know of the work done and the amount paid nothing about the question unless they the contractor. He contended that the had the evidence before them. He himself had last evening tried to get a copy of between seventeen and nineteen thouof the evidence, but could not do so. sand dollars. There was the certified The attorney-general wanted to make a cheque for \$7600 and the plant, valued statement to refute sworn testimony. Was not sworn testimnoy as good as his had saved by dispensing with the bonds. statement? It was a rule of the Brit- There were also a number of vault doors ish house of commons that a report could not be discussed until the evidence was before the members. No one would object to the matter being referred back to the committee, but they did not want ams he would deduct from his contract the attorney-general to make an ex parte price.

statement Mr. Helmcken did not think the attorney-general should discuss the report until the evidence was in possession of the members. The attorney-general knew gret to the charges of forgery and per-

, applause from that quarter was prohib-Hon. Mr. Davie-I did not say that the hon. gentleman appeared before the committee, but that he appeared before the government.

Mr. Helmcken-I ask for the protec- ment? tion of the house. The question under disussion is the report of the committee, not my position as solicitor for Mr. Adams.

Hon. Mr. Davie quoted from the report wherein it refers to the increase in the price of stone and the ordering of extras without fixing the price for the same. He contended that this was not the case. The investigation before the committee, he could not help thinking, was to attack the architect, who was not present, and who when he did appear to answer certain charges was told that it was too late, as the committee this, as the day before he had requested the committee to report as soon as possi-Mr. Adams' tender for the work was \$454,508.31, which was reduced to \$380,000. It was shown that it would be worth \$15,000 to the contractor if

bonds were dispensed with, and this was back and the plant, which was considment has on the masonry contract is at \$4500, besides the \$15,000 that they which the contractor had placed on the premises and which he had left exposed and allowed to rust, the value of which, \$2100, the architect had told Mr. Ad-

Mr. Williams-Surely you do not mean to seize those.

Hon. Mr. Davie-I did not say we would: but the actual masonry contract Adams is up at the quarry? was \$360,000, the other \$20,000 being that he would not be allowed to do that for plumbing and heating, and for which claim for extras on account of the in a court. He had listened with re- the government have separate security. change in stone. He read a document trouble had been caused by the architect. The report states that the plant is mort-

himself. false

responsible for it but it was produced not a correct copy. Mr. Helmcken-Do you suggest that

Mr. Adams put in an incorrect docn- if Adams sustained any damage previous house would be prorogued in a few days Hon. Mr. Davie-I do. It is for Mr. care from. Adams was not responsible for the forgery, but he had got hold of it somehow. The government held general said the

knows that. Mr. Helmcken-Was I present. Hon. Mr. Davie-You attended the

last meeting. Mr. Helmcken-Well just leave me out.

I am just as anxious to sift the matter as the attorney-general is. Hon. Mr. Davie-I believe you are and withdraw any remarks I made which and buy the mortgagees which are their have proved disagreeable to any hon. gentleman. It would be inferred from the report of the committee that Mr. There are no claims for extras with the exception of those contained in the "c- city, will be unable to appear before the took it away. turn already made. The report of the

committee was based on a document what had no existence. Mr. Williams-Excuse me, that is rot

Mr. Helmcken-Is the copy you call a false one a copy of a copy or a copy of the original. Hon. Mr. Davie-I suppose it is a copy

of a copy Mr. Helmcken-Well, here is the original. (Holding it up.) Now who is respensible for the copy the committee has and the copy of the copy that you

bury.

have? Hon. Mr. Davie-The committee. Mr. Helmcken-Oh, you are going for the committee then. Hon. Mr. Davie-Mr. Adams claimed 71 tc have an order from the architect for e change in the class of stone. The government found out that this was an

advantage for the contractor. Mr. Williams-Will Mr. Adams have an opportunity to answer you? Hon. Mr. Davie-Yes, before the committee

Mr. Williams-You know quite well the statements made by the attorneythe committee will not have time to sit. general. Hon. Mr. Davie-That is not my

fault Mr. Helmcken-Do you know that Mr. Hon. Mr. Davie-Mr. Adams made a | litical purposes.

in connection with the change.

Adams was glad to bring down the stone accepted bonds that Adams had refused the matter The contentions were be The document produced before the com tween the contractor and the architect Mr. Helmeken asked who was respon- | n:ittee was an original one but the steno- | and the attack on the chairman of the sible for the document contained in the grapher made a slight mistake in copy- committee was unwarrantable. The aucommittee report which was alleged was ing it into the evidence. The copy in thority the attorney-general quoted was the evidence reads "proceed to bring "Rattenbury on buildings." Mr. Ratten-Hon. Mr. Davie-I do not know who is down stone," and the original reads bury could no doubt produce a splenaid

"proceed to order stone." This was the building, but the trouble was in carryby Mr. Adams. All knew that the de- bugbear over which attorney-general ing out the contract to the letter. He cument purported to be a copy but was was making so much fuss. The change did not see any use in passing the resodid not have any influence with the jution. It would be a good thing to have committee. The government know that a further inquiry, but he understood the

to the agreement of June the govern- and the committee could not get on withment is responsible. Mr. Helmcken hal out Mr. Adams' as some tall evidence is Adams to show where the document the documents which show that no false likely to be given by the architect or forged documents were presented to against the contractor. If it was guaran-The Attorney- teed that the committee would sit all general said the government made could clear themselves.

three investigations into the matter, Mr. the arrangement for Adams to pay Hon. Col. Baker did not think there Adams being present. Mr. Helmcken a royalty of five cents a foot on sione was any necessity for the matter to go taken from the Haddington Island quai- back to the committee after the statery on account of the workmen having ments that had been made on one side claims against the company. It was no by the attorney-general and on the other such a thing. The government did not by Messrs. Williams and Helmcken. It know until Mr. Adams went up to the came down to a question of a mistake

quarry that the men had claims aggre- in copying an original document. gating \$2500 against the company. The Hon. Mr. Davie .- They did not have government had to pay those clams | the original copy. Mr. Williams .- We did

security for the quarry, so they are, Hon. Mr. Davie .- How did you come ycu see, in the real estate business. The to misquote it in the report?

attorney-general has acted in a very un-Mr. Williams .- Mr. Adams read the Adams had a large claim for extras fair manner. He has reflected on the original copy before the committee, the contractor, who, being absent from the stenographer copied it and Mr. Adams

> committee. Mr. Adams' tender was re-Hon. Mr. Davie .- I do not see how duced by the architect to bring the conthat could be. tract within the estimated cost of the

> Mr. Williams .-- I tell you it is the fact. building. They reduced the cost of and you can take my word for it or not certain things but all may have to be teas you please. tored to complete the building. The

> Hon. Mr. Davie .- The original docutact that only \$26.33 was due Mr. ment does not fit Mr. Adams' evidence. Adams was obtained from Mr. Ratten-Mr. Helmcken.-What is the use of The plant is mortgaged to the raising that question when Mr. Williams Bank of British Columbia. The attor assures you that he did have the original nev-general says it cannot be removed. copy at the committee? The attorney-That is a question. The bank knows general continues to intimate that Mr. what it is doing, and if it comes to a Adams has done something for which he

> question between the government and should be sent to the chain-gang, while the bank the bank will get the best of it a few minutes before he withdrew the every time. The committee did not restatement that Mr. Adams had done rort in regard to the Kokisilah stone as something wrong.

> that question is in litigation. Personal Hon. Mr. Davie contended that Mr. he thought the company would get Adams' evidence was not compatible the best of the lawsuit and the governwith the original document. ment would be liable under the contract. Dr. Walkem thought the attorney-gen-As a member of the committee he was eral should withdraw the resolution.

> willing to take another week to investi-Mr. Hunter had no doubt that the atsate and report on the question. The torney-general thought he had done his attorney-general did not want it to go duty, but some one else was getting their back to the committee although the comwork in through him. He did not think mittee should in all justice investigate that there was any need of the investigation going any further as the matter had

> een explained in a very impartial man-Mr. Mutter contended that it would do n good to send the report back to the The motion was adopted. committee. A lot of time had been The house rose at 5:45. wasted in discussing the question for po

Mr. Bryden thought a good deal of the

Mr. Sword moved that: Whereas u. statement has been made in this house The government had been influenced by

which the previous minutes attention to. The American 1888 made a grant for an survey "of the line up the P al;' whereupon representa made to the Dominion gove testing against the admiss point of starting assumed by the American governme ing attention to the previ-To this minute, embodying sentations, was attached a by the late Justice Gray. 23rd, 1888, Mr. Justice G thorized to proceed to Wa represent the views of the of this province at a meetin matter was discussed. Mr. Gray died before he h his report to the governm quently the government of ion of Canada, acting conjoin government of the United pointed commissioners for th ascertaining the physical an necessary in finally deter boundary between Alaska and the authority of the prov ish Columbia extending no to the representations and tions referred to in the fo the government having ful their views no further action was taken, and the final s the matter, except by cons exhaustively to the jurisdie main parties of the dispute' Mr. Williams asked the eral what assurance he wo parliament buildings commit would have time to go on vestigation. He would po Mr. Adams was not at pr city. Hon. Mr. Davie did not

course the committee would house would prorogue as business was disposed of. might be appointed a royal and sit and investigate the the house has prorogued. be added to the resolution them and providing for remu Mr. Williams .- It would let us resume our duties and report then. That was commission could do. Mr. Cotton said the hou nominally but not formally and a quorum could meeet in receive the report and pror had been done at Ottawa at the Pacific scandal and there precedents for it. The speaker ruled any fur sion out of order. The report on the game bil ed after a number of amen

been introduced, a few of adopted. The report on the Sunday bill was adopted. Walkem moved of the homestead bill, which

Mr. Smith opposed the se

Mr. Eberts thought with a

ments the bill would be an

to amend in committee.

of the bill.

jury made by the attorney-general. In doing that he had unwarrantably cast a reflection on the committee. If it took sixty days to print the evidence the members should have it, and the men charged with perjury should not be placed in jeopardy without all the members knowing what they were discussing. The attorney-general had prepared himself for the occasion, and in all fairness and justice the discussion should not proceed until the evidence had been printed.

Mr. Mutter objected to the report being referred back until he had heard the statements of the attorney-general. Mr. Cotton-Certain charges have

been made by the attorney-general, and the men charged should be given an opportunity to answer, and yet the attorney-general wished to make further charges which the men could not have an opportunity to answer. If all the evidence was not brought out the only way to bring it out was to refer the matter back to the committee without discussion. It was impossible for the members to discuss it until they had the evidence.

The speaker ruled that the motion was in order and that it was not necessary at this stage of the proceedings to have the evidence printed.

Mr. Kitchen-We have no objection to the attorney-general adducing the facts to show why the report should be referred back, but we do object to him discussing the evidence already taken until we have that evidence before us. He had seen a copy of the evidence. but it he had read it to be sent to the printing office. The Speaker-The attorney-general

will proceed.

ing the house to commit itself to any- Adams wanted joint and several bonds thing, and therefore it was not necessary or the \$20,000 cash security. The comto have the evidence printed. He denied that he had used the word perjury, but admitted that he had used the word forgery. He was sorry that the third member for Victoria, Mr. Helmcken. had referred to the matter as he had, the cause of his client, Contractor Ad- bonds and the government would reams, whom he had represented before the government.

Mr. Helmcken rose to a point of order. He felt called upon to interrupt the hon. the attorney-general, inasmuch ry was transferred to the government, members had not been given an oppor- The man who wrote the letter was aas that hon, gentleman had referred to and Adams was given an order to get tunity to see. There was not a member fraid to sign his name. He is a dirty him as being zealous in the cause of a stone from Haddington island, and he in the house, with the possible exception coward. client, Mr. Adams. This statement he proceeded to order it. The company of the attorney-general who did not hurled back in the teeth of the attor- continued to supply stone until June 12, want a thorough investigation into this the attorney-general on the mildness of ney-general. himself who was trying to shield some agreement was entered into, by which the mittee. If the whole truth was not his famous resolution. There should be marcation, and recommending the same one. No one was more anxious than government took over the quarry, Ad- brought out it was the fault of the gov- no unnecessary heat in a debate of this he was to sift the matter to the bot- ams worked it, and paid the government (rrment. When the attorney-general kind. When he (Mr. Helmcken) heard 22nd, 1884. as having its starting point tom. He had never put his nose in the a royalty of five cents a foot on what committee room when the committee stone he took out. This royalty was be did not know the facts and although and forgery he felt that the matter wales is be did not know the facts and although the bottom. It was through the Duke of Clarence strait. his position in the house than the attor- them from the company and also to re- he should never have made the state- due to the house that this should be done. and thence along the western leg of ney-general seems to have of his. From coup the government for their outlay. the remarks of the attorney-general he knew that he intended to discuss the evidence, which the members did not order given him on January 31st for one as well as not. He, Mr. Williams, had that the document he was questioned are admitted have before them. The attorney-gener- given him in June. The first order was al knew what was going on in the committee, and in the interests of his cli- the contractor was safe in ordering the general had one copy and the printers That disposes of the question of forgery. ents, the people of the province, he or company to bring down stone. his deputy should have been present. He would advise the attorney-general to as a forged document. The governnot to allude to him in an uncomplimen- | ment told Mr. Adams that they would tary manner. hold him harmless in case of the failure

gaged to the Bank of British Columbia, but it should have said that it was subject to the lien of the government, It would have been better for the committee to state whether there was anything in the claim of the contractor on account of the substitution of Haddington island stone for the Koksilah stone. This change was asked for by the contractor and was brought about by him. If it had not been for him it is probable no change would have been made. He called attention to some defects in the

Koksilah stone. Mr. Williams-The committee did not go into that, as it is the subject of liti-

gation Mr. Helmcken-Has not a petition of right been allowed in respect to the change?

Hon. Mr. Davie admitted that a petition of right had been allowed, but contended that that had nothing to do with the matter between the government and Mr. Adams. He read a number of documents in support of his contention that Mr. Adams, and not the government, was responsible for the change. A letter from the architect to the contrac-

tor allowing the change and one from the contractor to the Koksilah Quarry company refusing to accept any more of their stone were included among the

documents. The contractor was having no difficulty in obtaining stone from Koksilah, and the company were able to give him security, but he was not satisfied with it. Then he wanted \$20,000 cash security had been taken away from him before from the Haddington Island Co. This was a resonable request, as the supply

of stone might give out or the company fail in the middle of the contract. The company offered to secure ten bondsmen Hon. Mr. Davie said he was not ask- to go security for \$2000 each, but matter was referred to the attorney-gen- to the committee and sifted down. eral's department. He, Mr. Davie, advised the contractor to find out if the supply of stone was sufficient. 'The

It was the hon gentleman 1894, when they failed. Then a new matter by referring it back to the com- the manner in which he had introduced the proper location of the line of de-The atorney-general contended that in his evidence Mr. Adams had read an

false copy.

Mr. Helmcken-I have the original. Hon. Mr. Davie-Mine might not be quite correct and the change does not effect the meaning. The change in the stone was in the contractor's interest. One by one the claims of Adams had been disallowed. The architect had done his work honestly and well and if the government had not upheld him tuey would have been at the mercy of the contractor and the sub-contractors. He commended the manner in which the one-

cifications had been drawn up and contended that it had been the means of kceping the contracts in the province. There was no proof that Contractor Drake had any claim for extras, 'The report was based upon evidence without cross-examination and upon a false docun.ent. He did not say that anyone had forged it intentionally. If the committee went further he thought they would find that there was no chances for ex-He admitted that the members tias. could not understand the question until they had perused the documents but he did not think the committee would take long to report. As soon as it was found that a government officer was a pactner

in the contract notification was sent him and he understood that he had made arrangements to withdraw. The government were satisfied that they work

right and the report was incorrect. Captain Irving said he had a kick coming. A committee had been appointed to find out all about the parliament buildings. It had been found that one contractor had been released from his bonds. There were other contractors on the buildings and they expected to be similarly treated. Mr. Rattenbury may letter that appeared in the Times refle tbe a very good architect but he is hav- ing on him. He was not chief commising too much his own way. He is a sioner when the contracts were let and young man with a big head. He would

Mr. Williams contended that the report chitect although the whole intention of government found out that it was, and the attorney-general was to protect the thing to do with him as chief commislease him from all responsibility on ac- The action of the attorney-general flavorcount of the stone, the government un- ed very much of his action in the Johnholding a'lien on the quarry. The quar- cyidence and documents that the other

ments. The presence of the attorney- The attorney-general was rather unforgeneral would not have intimidated the tunate in bringing a charge of forgery. committee. He could have been there for when he was questioned he admitted tried last evening to get a copy of the was only a copy of a copy. There was For to bring down stone but stated that evidence but could not as the attorney nothing to connect Mr. Adams with it. This the other. On January 31, 1894, Mr. He was unable to go into the charge of Company, Mr. Vernon, the late chief factory to refer the matter to a royal commissioner, accepted them and told commission. It would be a reflection on

during Mr. Helmcken's remarks that When the company failed in June Mr ment having the bonds. The government it appear that they were unable to probe February and the 16th of March,

Mr. Helmcken-That is a false copy. him to bring the matter before the house Hon. Mr. Davie-You might have a When he had been in the province a little longer he would not be so thinskinned. It was not fair to say that the chairman had prevented the printing of the evidence. Mr. Mutter had intimated that politics had entered into the him any bonds for the proper performquestion. Politics did not enter into the ance of his duties as receiver: And question. Everybody had the privilege house that said Burton absconded, withof appearing before the committee. It v as not fair to say that the committee had been misled. If anybody was in the wrong it was the government for not bringing before the committee any evicence that they had.

Mr. Booth said the committee was mislcd by some evidence brought before them. It was said before the conunittee by the contractor that Haddington Island stone was substituted by order of the architect. There was no evidence from Mr. Justice Crease an explanation show that there was an agreement between the government and Mr. Adams respecting the supply of stone Hon. Mr. Davie suggested that the

whole matter should be referred to a royal commission. It would be too great an expense to keep the house in session another week to allow the committee to

Mr. Williams-Then your motion was just a bluff.

Mr. Kitchen.-A few days will not hurt the members.

Mr. Semlin .- It was the attorney-general's own motion to refer the matter back to the committee and now he suggests a royal commission. There had been charges made of perjury and forgery, and the committee that had been considering the question should be allowed to carry it on.

Hon. Mr Martin said he would not have spoken if it had not been for a the references made to him in the let er pany could not obtain the bonds and the like to see the whole thing referred back were incorrect. The chairman of the committee had exonerated him in this matter. It was true that the official did not cast any reflections upon the ar- who was a partner in the contract was a November 9th, 1885, reiterating what personal friend of his, but that had nobut it was possibly due to his zeal for he advised the contractor to do without architect. The architect was given an sioner. The government stands in a opportunity of answering Mr. Adams, very good position as far as security is concerned. The article was an insult to him. No one could charge him with sideration the proposal of the Domini m dertaking to supply him with stone and son matter. He based his statement on any misdoings during the fifteen years that he had been a member of the house.

Mr. Helmcken wished to congratulage line drawn is in an easterly direction to and up Portland Canal, thereby depriving the crown of a large and valuable territory and important waterways. The committee again urged a speedy setlement of the question. In 1887 the question was the subject of strong re-The speaker had to remind the gallery of the company to bring down stone Adams to order the stone the govern the members of the committee, making presentation in executive minutes forwarded to Ottawa, namely, on the 7th of

that in the suit Roedde v. News-Adver tiser Co., Limited, Mr. Justics Crease appointed a stenographer of the court, named Burton, as receiver of the business of the bindery attached to the News-Advertiser office, without requiring from whereas it has also been stated in this out rendering any account of his intromissions with the funds of such bindery: Be it resolved, that a respectful address be presented to his honor the lieutenantgevernor, praying him to inquire into the correctness of such statements, 11a should he find these statements confirmed, to call the attention of his excellence the governor-general of the Dominion of the facts, as set forth in the preamble of this resolution, and pray him to obtain

EVENING SESSION.

of his action in this matter. The motion was defeated after a short discussion.

Dr. Walkem asked the attorney-general what steps if any have been taken by the provincial government towards having our rights recognized and represented in the delimination of the Alaska-British Columbia boundary line?

Mr. Davie replied as follows: "As fail back as 1877 the matter had consideration, and from 1883 to 1889 frequent strong representations were made by the government of British Columbia to the government of the Dominion of Canada, respecting the great desirability of having the Alaska boundary definitely delimited, under the terms of the tree ties governing the same. "In 1884 a report of the executive

council, dealing exhaustively with the location of the line of demarcation, as described in the terms of the treaty, and urging to have the boundary between Columbia and Alaska defined British without delay, was drawn up and approved July 22nd, 1884. (See Sessional Papers, B. C., p. 451, 1885.) This report was accompanied by maps and charts. An order-in-council, approved was advanced in the minute of the previous year, urged on the Dominion government an early settlement of the question. The committee of council, November 30th, 1885, having had under congovernment to exhibit at the Indian and Colonial Exhibition a mammoth map of Canada, and having in view its possible bearing on the disputed territory bounbearing on the disputed boundary line between British Columbia and Alaska prepared a minute defining their view of Behm's Canal till it 'strikes the 56th degree of north latitude,' in stead of as incorrectly on the map of Canada publish ed by authority in 1880, whereby the

on the present homestead a Hon. Mr. Pooley did not would improve the present a The bill was read a second Mr. He'mcken moved the ing of the landlord and tens landlord should have prefer but they should be regulate landlord allows a man's rel extends to him credit wh him to obtain credit from and others. The landlord s the other creditors by keep ant up to the mark. If the not use proper diligence t rent he should not have over diligent merchants who ed to give credit in view of extended by the landlord. Hon. Mr. Davie oppose Such a measure would nev thought of in prosperous would make times a great forcing the landlord to pres for his own protection. just a mandate to the land his tenant out. Mr. Williams did not favo he did not think it would ef edy the introducer expected The bill was defeated. Mr. Kellie moved the secon the tramway companies bill without discussing it. Hon. Mr. Davie favored only question in his min whether it should not apply eral districts as well as It was necessary sometime tramway on the spur of the great inconvenience was ca ing companies having to legislature to meet. The bill was read a seco referred to committee of th McPherson in the chair.

Mr. Smith introduced a to make the bill apply to Ea Kootenay, Yale, Lillooet districts. Other amendments were bill was reported complete.

The amendment was adopt The house adjourned at 1

FIFTY-FIFTH I Frida

The speaker took the o'clock. Prayers by Rev

Mr. Kennedy presented a Dominion lodge, No. 1, I. ing for certain changes in th servance bill. Read and Mr. Kitchen presented a the committee appointed to papers in connection with valley flood.

Mr. Helmcken rose to privilege. The Colonist' Thursday's proceedings did injustice. As all knew, discussion took place on a uncalled for statement of general. As he had stat he dropped his profession on the floor of the house to his duty as a represen people. Through the who