

proposed, the inquiry would have been well under way by now.

Mr. SEMLIN thought a committee should investigate the various false statements involved in the Attorney-General's statements.

HON. MR. MARTIN said he wished to say a few words while this matter was under discussion respecting the attacks made upon him in the Times newspaper. He wished to point out to the house that all these contracts were let before he took office, and to state that since that time he has done his best to have them carried to completion at the least possible expense to the province. He read from the paper referred to the allegation that, "If the Chief Commissioner has been slandered the slander is in the committee's report," and pointed out that there is nothing whatever in the report reflecting upon him, and that the chairman has voluntarily exonerated him in every shape and form. Respecting the further charges that he had favored the government, he said that he had been interested in the contract because he was his friend, he wished to state that they had indeed been friends since they were boys forty years ago, but that it is absolutely untrue that he had been a member of the house. He considered the writer of the article, who called himself "Taxpayer," but was afraid to sign his name, to be nothing but a contemptible coward.

MR. HELMCKEN congratulated the Attorney-General upon the mildness of the manner in which he had said the facts in his possession before the house, for he considered it is deplorable for unnecessary heat to be shown in any debate. He had expected something more because of the way in which the Attorney-General had been treated by the public. He thought, however, that the Attorney-General had not brought home those charges. He did not think a royal commission would be a satisfactory way of dealing with the matter. Neither did he wish to attack the government. He could add his testimony to that of Mr. Williams that the Chief Commissioner has done his duty, and that the attack made upon him is in every way unwarrantable. He admitted that the architect had produced a very creditable block of buildings, but he thought Mr. Rattenbury is to blame in not having carried out the spirit as well as the letter of the contract—for instance in the case of the bridges, which were to have been ordered in ranges, but came in as shown in a batch instead of singly as they were given. He did not see any use in the motion, especially as the Attorney-General had already said that he would when the committee takes evidence, in out of town.

HON. COL. BAKER considered that what had been stated made it clearly evident that the matter ought to be referred to the committee or to a royal commission, as the misleading report plainly appears to have been occasioned by a mistake in copying a document put in by the Attorney-General. Mr. DAVIE said it seemed to him to have been impossible that the real document could have been before the committee as stated, because the evidence of Mr. Adams is directly in conflict with any such supposition, as it is based upon the very mistake which it is now alleged the stenographer made in copying it. He reminded the house that while the senior member for Vancouver positively stated that the original document was placed before the committee, the other day when the matter was first mentioned he said that to the best of his recollection it was a copy they had before them.

DR. WALKER failed to see why the architect should be blamed in the least, as he appears to have done his best to perform his whole duty.

MR. HUNTER believed that this is altogether too frivolous a matter to occupy the attention of the house, though he did not blame the Attorney-General, who believing it to be his duty to refer this matter before the house proceeded to do his duty as he always does. He thought that the gentleman had acted on incorrect information given to him by his own parties, and as much as on the 12th of June the government was relieved of all responsibility, and this letter in question was written on the 31st of January, it does not make any difference whether it was correct or incorrect, so far as the public interests are concerned. The public will be sufficiently in possession of the facts, if they are published in the impartial manner in which they were given to the house to-day, and he would be glad to keep the session going for ten days longer to get a further report on this matter.

The motion was carried on division of 28 to 6.

The house rose at 6 p.m.

After recess.

MR. SWORD moved: "Whereas the statement has been made in this house that the suit of Roedde v. News-Advertiser Co. (Limited), Mr. Justice Giesse appointed a stenographer of the court, named Burton, as receiver of the business of the bindery attached to the News-Advertiser office, without inquiring from him any bonds for the proper performance of his duties as receiver; and whereas it has been stated in this house that said Burton absconded without rendering any account of his intromissions with the funds of said bindery: Be it resolved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to inquire into the correctness of such statements, and should he find these statements confirmed, to call the attention of His Excellency the Governor-General of the Dominion to the facts, as set forth in the preamble to this resolution, and pray him to obtain from Mr. Justice Giesse an explanation of the said intromissions matter." The mover held that it was very hard for the parties interested to lose money through Burton's absconding, and that he was not prepared to say that this arose through any fault of the government, but he argued that the house should take action to bring home the blame to the party or parties responsible.

HON. MR. DAVIE said that he considered the motion a most improper one as it contained an unjust reflection upon the learned judge in a matter in which he felt constrained to his action was not open to censure or even adverse criticism. He had taken some pains to inquire into the facts of the case in question, and had found that on February 21, 1894, in the case of Roedde v. the News-Advertiser, both sides being represented by counsel, Hon. Mr. Justice Giesse gave judgment directing the appointment of a receiver. It was perfectly immaterial to the judge whom the receiver should be, whether a regular officer of the court or a stranger. It was left to counsel to select the person to be appointed, and Mr. Burton was appointed, such appointment not being objected to by either side. He therefore urged the withdrawal of the motion, which should never have been offered to the house.

MR. CORRY denied that the appointment of Burton had been made without objection by either of the parties concerned. He had never considered the appointment a desir-

able one, but the learned judge had held that Burton was a fit and proper person for the receivership.

HON. MR. POOLEY expressed his regret as well as his surprise that such a resolution should have been brought forward, reflecting as it did severely upon one of the judges of the Supreme court. He had a distinct remembrance that the appointment of Mr. Burton as receiver had not been objected to by counsel on either side and he blamed the court positively at the learned judge for his action in the premises. The motion was a discredit to the house and should be withdrawn.

The resolution was lost on division.

THE ALASKA BOUNDARY.

DR. WALKER asked: "What steps if any have been taken by the provincial government towards having our rights recognized or represented in the delimitation of the Alaska-British Columbia boundary line?"

HON. MR. DAVIE replied reviewing the steps taken since 1877 and concluding: "Subsequently the government of the Dominion of Canada, acting jointly with the government of the United States, appointed commissioners for the purpose of ascertaining the physical and other data necessary in finally determining the boundary between Alaska and Canada, and the province of the British Columbia has been extending no farther than to the representations and recommendations referred to in the foregoing, and the government having fully expressed their views, no further action on its part was taken, the final settlement of the matter, except by consent, relating exclusively to the jurisdiction of the main parties to the dispute."

THE PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS INQUIRY.

MR. WILLIAMS asked what assurance the parliament buildings committee of inquiry, more because of the way in which the committee was formed, have that they would be permitted to conduct their investigations before the close of the session. The committee are most anxious to proceed with their inquiry, but do not want to have their work lost by the rising of the house before the completion of their labors.

HON. MR. DAVIE replied that he did not know what course the committee would pursue, while he hoped that they would leave nothing undone in the matter left in their hands for investigation. The house would certainly not be prorogued while there was any business to be done, but at the same time he thought it would be foolish to keep the house in session simply for the purpose of receiving the report of this committee. He suggested that the inquiry should be continued after the close of the session, the committee being invested with the powers of a royal commission. Of course, being members of the house, the commissioners could not receive payment for their services in the usual manner. Requiring the committee to continue their work after the close of the session, a rider being added legalizing the receiving of such compensation by the commissioners through members of the house.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Cotton and Hon. Col. Baker, and was then declared out of order by Mr. Speaker and came to an end.

Report on the Sunday observance bill was adopted.

GAME PROTECTION.

MR. SWORD introduced an amendment to add as a new section: "In unincorporated districts no person, other than a person domiciled in the province or holder of a license under section 20 of this act, shall trap or kill bear or beaver with a view to marketing their pelts." It was explained that this clause had for its object the protection of the resident Indians of Cassiar from the invasion of their trapping grounds upon which they were wholly dependent for the means of existence, by the migratory Indians of Alaska.

The amendment passed, and the report was adopted.

THE HOMESTEAD BILL.

MR. WALKER in moving the second reading of the homesteads act amendment bill, explained that owing to defects in the existing legislation the privileges provided had of late been greatly abused. The bill introduced was intended to more carefully define the intention of the exemptions.

MR. SMITH opposed the principle of the measure.

MR. EBBERTS held that with such amendments as might be made in committee, the bill would be a considerable improvement upon the existing act.

HON. MR. POOLEY was not of this opinion, and opposed the bill as entirely unnecessary.

Bill read a second time.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.

MR. HELMCKEN in moving the second reading of this bill (No. 59) explained how under the existing legislation the landlord's preference upon the property of the tenant is frequently taken advantage of to the crowding out of other creditors. It was proposed as a remedy that the landlord's preference should only cover three months' rent. The legislation proposed had for its object the regulation, not the abrogation, of the landlord's preferential rights.

HON. MR. DAVIE opposed the second reading of the bill and pronounced it an unnecessary and undesirable innovation, which would never have been thought of had ordinary conditions prevailed. There was no similar measure in effect elsewhere that he had knowledge of, and this bill was a direct outcome of the hard times. Tenants as well as those who were not tenants found it hard to meet their obligations just at present, and landlords were disposed to show all possible leniency. Should this bill pass the effect would be to make the time a good deal harder, for it practically proposed to compel the landlord to turn the tenant out of doors if he could not pay his rent promptly. It would do no one any good. If the landlord could not get his money, neither could the outside creditor, and no one would benefit through the harsh treatment of the unfortunate tenant. If such legislation had been desirable it would doubtless have been tried already elsewhere.

MR. WILLIAMS hoped that the bill would be withdrawn. He certainly could not support it. The proposition was to compel the landlord to collect his rents every three months; the legislation sought seemed to him prejudicial to all parties concerned and productive of no possible benefit.

The second reading was lost on a division.

TRAMWAY COMPANIES INCORPORATION BILL.

The second reading of this bill was moved by Mr. Kille, opposed by Mr. Cotton, and warmly advocated by Hon. Mr. DAVIE, Hon. Col. Baker and Mr. Smith. Bill read a second time and committed, with Mr. McPherson in the chair. The committee, Mr. Smith moved to make the provisions of the bill apply not alone to West Kootenay, but to East and West Kootenay, Yale, Lillooet and Cariboo. The amendment carried, and the committee to report on the bill complete with amendments.

The house adjourned at 12.30 a.m.

FIFTY-FIFTH DAY.

FRIDAY, FEB. 15, 1895.

THE BUILDINGS CONTRACT.

MR. HELMCKEN, as a matter of privilege,

complained that in consequence of there not being included in the COLONIST report of the Attorney-General's proceedings any particulars of the debate, the public would not understand the drift of the questions which he afterwards put. He intimated that the Attorney-General was responsible for the omission.

MR. WILLIAMS, also, as a matter of privilege, said that as it had been depicted in the house that the committee had the proper document in relation to the Haddington Island stores before them, and that the incorrect copy appearing in the evidence was simply because of a mistake by the stenographer, he had the latter look at his notes, with the result that he found the mistake was in transcribing, and he would write a letter to that effect. Mr. Williams took this opportunity also to refer to the report in the COLONIST, and to explain that when he said the presence of the Attorney-General would not affect the committee he meant simply that the committee would not be intimidated thereby.

HON. MR. DAVIE said he certainly understood the hon. gentleman to say something to the same effect as the report in the COLONIST that misunderstanding—for such he must now take it to be—that he made the remark that Mr. Williams would not be of much use to the committee. He was glad to agree that if he had done the member an injustice in this matter, or with respect to the incorrect document in the report, of which the statement of the stenographer is an explanation, with the result that Mr. Williams had the right to be angry. He was in any way responsible for the report in the COLONIST, such a statement or insinuation is entirely untrue, as any hon. member could see for himself. He was in the house in the morning, while the report, he believed, appeared in the paper which went on the boat to Vancouver as two weeks ago. He had indeed gone to the COLONIST office on his way home from the house, and had then read the report on the proof sheets, but at that time the type was, he believed, already set. He was not in the house when the report appeared, and he could not say that he observed any injustice in the report, which, of course, was hurriedly made, and he thought it would have been much better to wait until the report had been corrected. He was in the house when the report appeared, and he could not say that he observed any injustice in the report, which, of course, was hurriedly made, and he thought it would have been much better to wait until the report had been corrected.

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CANADA WESTERN RAILWAY.

HON. MR. DAVIE moved the second reading of the bill respecting the Canadian Western Railway. He reviewed the provisions of the bill, and the statements of the preamble, and explained the opinion that the position being as there set out the house will have little hesitation in passing the bill. He considered that the bill was one of those which concerned the province, and that it had been an act of wisdom on the part of the government to give the promise of a substantial land grant to aid in the construction of the road. It was a bill which would be of great benefit to the province, and he believed that the government was justified in its action. He would not now dwell upon the possibilities of that great northern country, the matter being fully given to consideration by himself and others on former occasions. There were those in the house who remembered how he had delivered himself on this subject some six years ago, and he had had no occasion to change his views. This project is one of importance not only to British Columbia, but it is also a matter of national necessity so far as this country is concerned. He fully believed that in the near future it will be an accomplished fact, thanks to the indomitable energy of the chief promoters, who are working for it not for any merely personal advantage, but for the benefit of the public interests. Though they have been working assiduously they cannot accomplish impossibilities, and in view of the stringency of the money market, he has been unable to complete their plans, though they have made long strides in that direction. It had been fully expected that they would have been in a position this session to bring before the house a bill which would command itself to the consideration of the members, but the event has proved otherwise, and therefore this bill becomes a necessity. If, however, what he proposed should be passed, he would be congratulated on the fact that the affairs of this project are in such hands; and he had no doubt but that it will be constructed in the near future, without any enormous subsidy such as has been suggested by its enemies. While prepared to grant the company all the assistance possible within the resources of the country, the government would not be justified in having outside the bounds of our legitimate resources, or in doing anything in bringing on the financial disaster which some allege assistance to this road will accomplish. The government are prepared to bring forward any business like proposition to lay it before the house, and he felt quite satisfied that the bill would be passed. He anticipated that it might be said that this should have been brought in as a private bill, but this could not have been done as up to a short time ago the company were not incorporated, and he was in a position to ask the government to bring forward a different measure, and viewing this as a public matter of the highest importance he thought he was only doing his duty in bringing the private bill, which he now moved the second reading. This provides simply for an extension of the time for commencement and completion. The company have already incurred considerable expense, and they have done so to save their charter, though the work of construction mentioned has of course been done on a nominal basis as an actual character. It is, however, sufficient to comply with the terms of the charter.

MR. WILLIAMS—What have they done?

HON. MR. DAVIE said they have expended

a large amount of money in connection with the right of way and the preliminary survey. It does not take much to commence construction, for he remembered when about twenty years ago the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway was commenced by the Dominion government at Esquimalt; but this company have done much more than was done at that occasion. Though the bill stipulates \$200,000 as the minimum expenditure for each year during the construction of this enterprise, of course much more than that will be called for. The object of the bill is to facilitate the construction and to give fair and reasonable terms for the completion of the road. He would not compare it with the Canadian Pacific railway as present, but eventually it will be a transcontinental line. The Canadian Pacific railway opened up the southern portion, and the Canada Western will perform that service for the remainder of the province, completing fully three-fourths of the whole territory. He would not now go into the capabilities of that vast extent of country, the particulars with respect to which have been published so frequently, for most of the hon. members know the capacity of the region in the shape of grain and other products of the soil, besides its mineral wealth. A point to be borne in mind is the same effect as the report in the COLONIST that misunderstanding—for such he must now take it to be—that he made the remark that Mr. Williams would not be of much use to the committee. He was glad to agree that if he had done the member an injustice in this matter, or with respect to the incorrect document in the report, of which the statement of the stenographer is an explanation, with the result that Mr. Williams had the right to be angry. He was in any way responsible for the report in the COLONIST, such a statement or insinuation is entirely untrue, as any hon. member could see for himself. He was in the house in the morning, while the report, he believed, appeared in the paper which went on the boat to Vancouver as two weeks ago. He had indeed gone to the COLONIST office on his way home from the house, and had then read the report on the proof sheets, but at that time the type was, he believed, already set. He was not in the house when the report appeared, and he could not say that he observed any injustice in the report, which, of course, was hurriedly made, and he thought it would have been much better to wait until the report had been corrected.

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HON. MR. DAVIE moved the second reading of the bill respecting the Canadian Western Railway. He reviewed the provisions of the bill, and the statements of the preamble, and explained the opinion that the position being as there set out the house will have little hesitation in passing the bill. He considered that the bill was one of those which concerned the province, and that it had been an act of wisdom on the part of the government to give the promise of a substantial land grant to aid in the construction of the road. It was a bill which would be of great benefit to the province, and he believed that the government was justified in its action. He would not now dwell upon the possibilities of that great northern country, the matter being fully given to consideration by himself and others on former occasions. There were those in the house who remembered how he had delivered himself on this subject some six years ago, and he had had no occasion to change his views. This project is one of importance not only to British Columbia, but it is also a matter of national necessity so far as this country is concerned. He fully believed that in the near future it will be an accomplished fact, thanks to the indomitable energy of the chief promoters, who are working for it not for any merely personal advantage, but for the benefit of the public interests. Though they have been working assiduously they cannot accomplish impossibilities, and in view of the stringency of the money market, he has been unable to complete their plans, though they have made long strides in that direction. It had been fully expected that they would have been in a position this session to bring before the house a bill which would command itself to the consideration of the members, but the event has proved otherwise, and therefore this bill becomes a necessity. If, however, what he proposed should be passed, he would be congratulated on the fact that the affairs of this project are in such hands; and he had no doubt but that it will be constructed in the near future, without any enormous subsidy such as has been suggested by its enemies. While prepared to grant the company all the assistance possible within the resources of the country, the government would not be justified in having outside the bounds of our legitimate resources, or in doing anything in bringing on the financial disaster which some allege assistance to this road will accomplish. The government are prepared to bring forward any business like proposition to lay it before the house, and he felt quite satisfied that the bill would be passed. He anticipated that it might be said that this should have been brought in as a private bill, but this could not have been done as up to a short time ago the company were not incorporated, and he was in a position to ask the government to bring forward a different measure, and viewing this as a public matter of the highest importance he thought he was only doing his duty in bringing the private bill, which he now moved the second reading. This provides simply for an extension of the time for commencement and completion. The company have already incurred considerable expense, and they have done so to save their charter, though the work of construction mentioned has of course been done on a nominal basis as an actual character. It is, however, sufficient to comply with the terms of the charter.

MR. WILLIAMS—What have they done?

HON. MR. DAVIE said they have expended

a large amount of money in connection with the right of way and the preliminary survey. It does not take much to commence construction, for he remembered when about twenty years ago the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway was commenced by the Dominion government at Esquimalt; but this company have done much more than was done at that occasion. Though the bill stipulates \$200,000 as the minimum expenditure for each year during the construction of this enterprise, of course much more than that will be called for. The object of the bill is to facilitate the construction and to give fair and reasonable terms for the completion of the road. He would not compare it with the Canadian Pacific railway as present, but eventually it will be a transcontinental line. The Canadian Pacific railway opened up the southern portion, and the Canada Western will perform that service for the remainder of the province, completing fully three-fourths of the whole territory. He would not now go into the capabilities of that vast extent of country, the particulars with respect to which have been published so frequently, for most of the hon. members know the capacity of the region in the shape of grain and other products of the soil, besides its mineral wealth. A point to be borne in mind is the same effect as the report in the COLONIST that misunderstanding—for such he must now take it to be—that he made the remark that Mr. Williams would not be of much use to the committee. He was glad to agree that if he had done the member an injustice in this matter, or with respect to the incorrect document in the report, of which the statement of the stenographer is an explanation, with the result that Mr. Williams had the right to be angry. He was in any way responsible for the report in the COLONIST, such a statement or insinuation is entirely untrue, as any hon. member could see for himself. He was in the house in the morning, while the report, he believed, appeared in the paper which went on the boat to Vancouver as two weeks ago. He had indeed gone to the COLONIST office on his way home from the house, and had then read the report on the proof sheets, but at that time the type was, he believed, already set. He was not in the house when the report appeared, and he could not say that he observed any injustice in the report, which, of course, was hurriedly made, and he thought it would have been much better to wait until the report had been corrected.

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