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BY

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THE FISHERIES TREATY.

We suppose that as long as the world wags there will be those who will think it a very unsatisfactory place in which to live. They are the Jeremiahs whose lamentations are loud in the land and who make life intolerable for those who are compelled to associate with them. The Grit party of Canada has done more to injure this fair Dominion of ours by deprecating its resources and falsifying its financial condition than all other influences combined. Three able men who have the best interests of Canada at heart, the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Sir Lionel Sackville-West and Sir Charles Tupper, have just consummated a treaty with our neighbor to the south of us with reference to one of the most difficult questions that has yet occurred to interrupt the friendly relations which have always prevailed between the two countries. Ere the provisions of that treaty were known, before the ink was dry upon the signatures, the Grit press of Canada following its usual course belittled it and claimed it was a giving in to the United States, simply because it was wrought out under the sanction of the Liberal-Conservative Government. Let us look at the results accomplished by the Washington Commission. This treaty, which is mainly devoted to defining the disputed points arising out of the convention of 1818 confirms Canada's right to exclusive jurisdiction inside the three mile limit and in all close bays and inlets, to the exclusive control of her bait supplies which the Americans relinquish the right to catch or buy, and to the exclusive control of transhipping facilities under the treaty. What do the Americans get in return? Nothing but a joint commission to decide what bays and inlets may be called close, the right to enter Canadian harbors for shelter, repairs, wood or water without conforming to the harassing customs' regulations, and also a right to ordinary trading privileges. These are all, and they would have had them long ago and without the trouble of a treaty had they shown a disposition to admit Canada's indisputable right as to shore fishing and bait and to conform to her commercial regulations. The question at issue was one of great difficulty giving rise to much irritation and a solution could only be arrived at by representatives of both sides approaching the subject in a conciliatory spirit. We believe this has been done, and the particulars now made known will, we think, bear out the contention that the treaty would be found to be framed in a spirit to make it acceptable to the people of both countries. Grumblers, and we find, as we have known from experience, that there are a few in this city, will no doubt find fault with the details, but honorable men on both sides rejoice that a question giving rise to so much international feeling bids fair to be removed from the arena of controversy and that that neighborly feeling and good will which ought to prevail between people having such intimate intercourse will again hold sway. The provisions in the *protocol* of February 10th allowing for touching and trading will prove satisfactory to the people of the maritime provinces who do a large business in furnishing supplies and are really the principal persons interested in the matter, the more especially when the American vessels are compelled to pay an annual license at a fee of $1.50 per ton. But the position Canada proposes taking is clearly outlined in its consenting to take off this tax if, during the continuance of this temporary arrangement, the United States consents to remove the duty on fish and their oils. We believe, now that our own fishermen need have no fear of competition with American fishermen, they will be well satisfied more especially since the American markets are gradually being opened to them for the sale of their catch. We cannot see in the terms of the treaty any ground for disquietude. We believe that while each side has mutually had to make concessions in order to make a compromise possible, otherwise an arrangement would be impossible, Canada has reason to be, on the whole, satisfied with the general conditions. In a few days the treaty will be debated in Parliament. The Opposition will have an opportunity of pointing out its weaknesses, but judging by its tenor as it reads to us at this distance from the immediate scene of action, we have no doubt that Sir Charles Tupper will prove it to be a masterly diplomatic feat, reflecting credit upon him personally and those with whom he is associated, and at the same time evidencing the fact that the United States and Canada, living side by side as they are, and to whose very life international comity is necessary, can, when a grave difficulty presents itself, settle their differences by an arbitration honorable to both and upon the broad lines of common sense and justice.

THE BLUE NECKTIE SAINT.

TO THE EDITOR:—In the last issue of the *Weekly Times* I see that our political saint with the blue necktie is trying to create a sensation by producing a letter from James Buie Leighton. "Shades of Moses!" What will come next? Does the said James Buie Leighton recollect how much money he paid out for horse hire and the dispensation of the miserable whisky he dealt out for plumpers for the blue necktie saint. I recollect it and so do many more of my friends. I am only sorry that the Hon. F. G. Vernon ever paid any attention to it. RUSTICUS.

Ashcroft, B.C., 18th February.

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the hon. gentleman was laboring under a mistake. He would ask what particular individual the hon. gentleman referred to.

Mr. Semlin—Steve Tanner.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that he thought so. It was by no means correct that because licenses had not been issued they were refused. With regard to Tanner's application, it had first been made through a wrong channel. He had not applied to the superintendent of the police, the proper officer. However, authority to issue the license had been granted, but it could not be said to be issued until it was paid for. When the superintendent of police recommended the issuing of a license, he could see no reason why such should not be done. So far as the suggestion in regard to the refusal of licenses was concerned, the hon. gentleman was mistaken in his belief.

Mr. Orr asked how many and at what price would licenses be issued at Rock Creek?

Hon. Mr. Davie said that he had before stated that the issuing of licenses was in the hands of the superintendent of police. There had been very few licenses entertained, and technically only one issued. He was not prepared to say what policy the government intended to pursue.

Hon. Mr. Beaven thought there was a large field opened up for discussion in this license question. He thought the returns should be furnished.

Mr. Martin said that Mr. Tanner had written to him some months ago and asked to whom he should apply for a license, and he had referred him to the superintendent of police, and he understood that a license had since been forwarded to the government agent. The matter was quite satisfactory so far as Mr. Turner was concerned.

Mr. Semlin was suspicious of the unanimity of the government in the matter of Rock Creek licenses.

Resolution carried.

SUMAS LANDS.

Mr. Ladner moved: That an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will cause to be sent down to this house all orders in council, letters, and telegrams respecting the mode agreed upon between the dominion and provincial governments of dealing with the lands embraced within what is known as the Sumas Dyking Act.

Hon. Mr. Robson said if the resolution was now passed, it would be impossible for the government to furnish for some time yet the papers mentioned.

Mr. Ladner said that the answer to his question the other day had been unsatisfactory and he was determined to press his resolution. It was necessary that his constituents should be made aware of the information asked in the resolution.

Hon. Mr. Robson said it was impossible for the government to bring down the information sought until certain matters had first been arranged between the two governments. It was not aiding the hon. gentleman's constituents to press the resolution, in fact it would be in direct opposition to their interests.

Mr. Ladner still pressed the resolution.

After being read,

Hon. Mr. Robson again explained that the papers called for formed a portion of those promised in the address, and they would be brought down as soon as it was possible to do so.

Mr. Orr said he understood that some of the lands within the Sumas Dyking Act were now being administered by the Dominion government. It was an anomalous condition of things.

Mr. Ladner asked when it would be possible for the papers to be brought down.

Hon. Mr. Robson said it might be but a few days only; he could not say exactly. As soon as the negotiations pending were completed they would be furnished, and he could assure hon. gentlemen that they would prove highly satisfactory to both sides of the house.

Mr. Semlin thought there was too much mystery about the whole question.

After further discussion the hon. gentleman withdrew his resolution for the present.

PRIVILEGE.

Hon. Mr. Davie thought some different mode should be followed than that in the report of the proceedings of yesterday's session. It was not stated that prior to the nominating of the committee on the amendment of Hon. Mr. Humphreys that three opposition members had been nominated but had refused to act. It was made to appear that all government members were nominated, which conveyed a wrong impression.

After some discussion Mr. Speaker decided that the matter could not be incorporated in the report.

On request of Hon. Mr. Davie, a vote as to whether the chair should be sustained was taken and resulted in a tie.

Mr. Speaker sustained his own decision.

House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Humphreys, on Thursday next—To ask the hon. the minister of mines: At whose instance or recommendation was Mr. James Champion appointed government mining engineer for the purposes of the "Act to aid the development of quartz mines."

Mr. Grant, on Friday next—To ask the hon. the minister of finance: What sum of money in Dominion currency has the loan of 1887 netted to the government at Victoria, after deducting exchange, discount, commission, accrued interest and charges of all description. On what date was the money received here by the government, and is there any outstanding claim in connection with it?

Mr. Orr, on Thursday next—To ask the hon. the chief commissioner of lands and works: Under what authority was Mr. W. M. Ladner allowed to encroach on and dispose of part of the public road from the landing near the mouth of Chiluchan slough and running straight in a southeasterly direction about 30 chains to a point where the line dividing townships Nos. 5 and 6 crosses said slough, said public highway having been gazetted 66 feet wide by notice in the British Columbia *Gazette* dated Victoria, Dec. 22nd, 1873?

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Higgins, on Friday next—To move that a select committee be appointed, with power to call for persons and papers, to enquire into the application of Donald McKenzie to pre-empt section 98, Esquimalt district, or (in the event of the refusal of such pre-emption record) for full value of the improvements effected by him upon such land. Said committee to consist of Messrs. Semlin, John, Baker, Cowan and the mover.

Mr. Ladner, on Thursday next—To ask leave to introduce a bill entitled "an act to prevent the spread of noxious weeds."

Mr. Humphreys, on Thursday next—To move that an order of the house be granted for a return of all letters and telegrams between the government or others, the members of the executive, from Mr. James Cunningham or other persons relating to the appointment of Mr. James Champion as government mining engineer.

Mr. Bole, on Friday next—To move that a respectful address be presented to his honor the Lieutenant-Governor requesting him to direct the attention of the government to the necessity of establishing at an early date a quarantine station at New Westminster City.

Mr. Bole, on Friday next—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.

Mr. Ladner, on Friday next—To move that a select committee be appointed to inquire why the gazetted road from the mouth of Chiluchan Slough, New Westminster District, has been fenced so as not to allow the requisite width of 66 feet to be used as a public highway. Said committee to consist of Hon. F. G. Vernon, Thomson, Martin, Orr and Semlin.

Hon. Mr. Davie, on Thursday next—To move that so much of the votes and proceedings of Monday, the 20th February, as state that Messrs. Baker, Fry, Martin, Duck, Allen and Anderson were nominated to form the select committee for enquiry into the charges against the President of the Council, should be amended by placing upon record the fact that the names of Messrs. Orr, Semlin and Ladner were first nominated as members of such committee, but having declined to act, and the leader of the opposition having said that no members on his side of the house would sit on the committee, the names of Messrs. Duck, Allen and Anderson were substituted for those members who had declined.

Mr. Bole, on Friday next, seconded by Colonel Baker, Whereas, although we hail with satisfaction as an important step in the right direction, the stationing of "C" Battery of artillery in British Columbia, yet very much remains to be done before the defences of the coast and ports of the province can be considered to be in a state to resist hostile attacks;

Therefore be it resolved that an humble address be presented to his honor the lieut.-governor requesting that representation be made to the Dominion government to take steps towards developing and placing on a better footing both as regards the number, arms, equipment, enrollment and pay of the active and reserve militia of this province.

1st. By providing modern artillery and arms of precision with suitable equipment and ammunition for the existing militia force.

2nd. By the enrollment of new corps at Vancouver, Nanaimo, the New Westminster, Yale and Kootenay districts, and such other districts as may be deemed advisable.

3rd. By making all proper and necessary provisions for enrolling and organizing the new reserve militia of the province, and the division of the province into regimental and other districts for that purpose.

4th. By providing better and more suitable drill sheds for exercising and training corps, and also by providing suitable magazines and depôts for the safe storage of arms and ammunition.

5th. By causing such surveys to be made by competent officers as will clearly indicate the best system of fortifying New Westminster, Nanaimo and Vancouver and such other points as may be considered of strategical importance.

6th. By taking steps to carry into practical effect the recommendations of the officers making such surveys by constructing the proposed fortifications and placing suitable armament therein.

THIRTEENTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 23.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:15 o'clock.

Prayers were offered by the Right. Rev. Bishop Cridge.

PETITIONS.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir presented a petition from the Nicola Mining Company.

The petition of the city of New Westminster praying for incorporation by charter was read and received.

The petition of John R. Brown and others, praying for incorporation as the Harrison Hot Springs Tramway Company was read and received.

The petition of F. W. Alymer and others asking for incorporation as the Crow's Nest and Kootenay Railway was read and received.

The petition of residents of Westminster district in regard to the faulty construction of fences erected and lack of fencing on unoccupied land along the C. P. R., and praying for an act to meet the requirements needed, was read and received, and referred to the committee on railways.

INDIAN COMMISSION.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented a return of all papers in connection with the mission of the commission to the North West coast Indians.

REPORTS.

The private bills committee reported favorably to the bills of the Kootenay and Columbia Railway and Transportation Co., and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Co. Report received.

On motion the evidence taken in the Granville squatters' rights enquiry was ordered to be printed as taken from day to day.

The private bills committee reported recommending that the receiving of petitions be extended until the 27th February. Report received.

Mr. Orr said that a petition was in preparation which affected the interests of a great number in this province, and it was for this reason that an extension of time was sought for three days. He would move the adoption of the report. Carried.

THE C. P. R. CASE.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented all papers, correspondence, etc., relating to the case of the province against the C. P. R. for failure to extend their line to English Bay within the specified time, together with names of counsel retained in behalf of the government.

WESTMINSTER DISTRICT ROAD.

The standing orders were suspended in order to allow Mr. Ladner to introduce a resolution in reference to a road near Chilukthan slough.

Moved by Mr. Ladner, seconded by Mr. Bole, that a select committee be appointed to inquire into the reason why the gazetted road from the mouth of Chilukthan slough, New Westminster district, has been fenced so as not to allow the requisite width of 66 feet to be used as a public highway. Said committee to consist of Messrs. Fry, Thomson, Martin, Orr, and Semlin.

Carried.

A LITTLE DIVERSION.

Col. Baker said, as chairman of the committee appointed to investigate the charges preferred by the hon. member for Comox against the hon. President of the Council, he had yesterday sent a letter to the hon. member for Comox inviting him to attend the meeting of the committee on Thursday, and to bring his witnesses. He had addressed the envelope to the hon. member as follows:—"Thomas Humphreys, Esq., M. P. P." He had received that day in reply a letter addressed "James Baker, M. P. P.," in which it was said: "Mr. Humphreys presents his compliments to the chairman of committee with returned enclosure, opened by mistake. Mr. Humphreys avails himself of the sinister opportunity of pointing to Mr. chairman the obvious discourtesy or ignorance lurking in the superscription." (Laughter). He (Col. Baker) was puzzled by this letter and therefore stepped over to where the hon. gentleman was sitting and asked if he had made any mistake in his Christian name. After certain hesitation the hon. gentleman replied that his name was "Basil," (laughter) but noticing that there was still something wrong he asked what was wanting, whereupon with an offensive manner the hon. gentleman said he was entitled to the prefix "honorable." He (Col. B.) had felt somewhat piqued and replied that he doubted whether he was really entitled to that prefix, as he was not at present in the council, when the hon. member from Comox, with his usual breeding, told him that "he had better go to school." He would here state that in addressing the envelope to the hon. gentleman he had not the slightest intention of withholding any title from him whether he deserved it or not. However, he had since been to school, and found in the Canadian "Parliamentary Companion" that executive members of provincial legislative assemblies were only entitled to the title of "honorable" during their period of office and not afterwards.

Hon. Mr. Beaven explained that gentlemen who had been members of the legislative council prior to confederation were by an order in council of Her Majesty entitled for life to the prefix "Honorable" to their name.

Hon. Mr. Davie said it could be readily understood why an hon. gentleman not in the country for an extended time would fall into the error of questioning Mr. Humphrey's right to the prefix. By that order in council Mr. H. and Mr. Bunster were each entitled to "Hon." to their name (laughter).

Col. Baker said he was quite willing to address the hon. gentleman by any title he liked, and if he only would let him know what it was he would address his letter accordingly.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys said he suspected that the hon. member for Kootenay intentionally omitted the prefix "Hon.," to which he was entitled.

Col. Baker—No.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys was still of the belief that the hon. gentleman was intentional in omitting his proper title. He explained the way in which he received the title of "Hon." He was one of the gentlemen whom the Queen had conferred it upon.

Hon. Mr. Davie—Yes. You and Mr. Bunster. (Laughter).

Hon. Mr. Humphreys here made some angry remarks.

Col. Baker said that he had addressed a new envelope "The Hon. Thomas Basil Humphreys, M. P. P.," He would ask the hon. gentleman if that was correct.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys—Wrong again. I am not a member of parliament. It is not correct to attach "M. P. P." to names of members of the legislature. (Derisive laughter).

Col. Baker—Then I will address the envelope "The Hon. Thomas Basil Humphreys, member for Comox," and I trust that will satisfy the hon. gentleman. [The messenger carried the letter to the hon. gentleman, who accepted it.]

Mr. Humphreys addressed some angry peasonal remarks to the hon. Mr. Davie across the floor of the house.

Mr. Speaker—It is not competent for any hon. gentleman to talk across the floor of the house.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys (angrily)—Well, why do you permit it from the hon. acting attorney general. He is always doing it.

Mr. Speaker—I did not hear the hon. gentleman say anything.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys—Well, I did.

Hon. Mr. Davie denied having said anything.

Mr. Speaker said the hon. gentleman would not be permitted to threaten members across the floor of the house. The hon. gentleman from Comox was continually doing it, and he would have to discontinue it. (Approving applause.)

INTESTATE ESTATES.

Hon Mr. Humphreys moved, seconded by Mr. Beaven—Whereas the administration of intestate estates in the province of British Columbia is expensive and unsatisfactory; be it therefore resolved, that a select committee be appointed to enquire into the state of the law, and the methods of administering such estates, with a view to the greater security of the public. The committee to have power to call for all persons, letters, books, documents, and accounts whatsoever, relating to such estates, and to make such recommendations to this house as may be found expedient.

The hon. mover said this resolution was brought forward to obtain some information as to what became of the property of deceased intestate estates, and to have the matter placed on a satisfactory basis in the interests of the public. Some system should be adopted to inform living relatives of the property left by deceased persons.

The resolution was carried, committee to consist of Messrs. Higgins, Cowan, Duck, Anderson and the mover.

COUNTY COURTS.

Hon. T. Davie asked leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act for increasing the efficiency of County Courts."

Leave granted. Bill read a first time, second reading on Friday next.

ASSIZE COURT.

Hon. T. Davie asked leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Assize Court Act, 1885.'"

Leave granted. Bill read a first time, second reading on Friday next.

MAIL TO ROCK CREEK.

Mr. Semlin moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, that a respectful address be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor, asking his honor to urge upon the federal government the importance of establishing immediately a mail communication through British Columbia with Rock Creek.

The hon. mover said that at present all mail matter, in order to get to camp in any reasonable time, had to go by way of Marcus, W. T. There was no doubt that a very large number of miners would be present at Rock Creek during the coming season, and it was highly desirable in the interests of trade that a weekly service should be supplied.

Mr. Bole thought the resolution should be amended, and the route indicated. He thought that Keremeos in Yale district should be given more than a monthly mail service. There was a large population in that neighborhood which should be considered. He endorsed the intent of the resolution.

Hon. Mr. Vernon thought that the route should be left in the hands of the postal authorities. It would be hard to indicate the most desirable route at the present time, there were so many points to be considered in the formation of a weekly route.

The motion carried.

QUESTIONS.

Hon. Mr. Beaven asked the honorable the acting attorney-general: Has a lease of any portion of Perry creek, Kootenay district, been granted to Lieut.-Colonel Baker, M.P.P.; if so, what are its terms and conditions, and does it contain a clause restricting the employment of Chinese?

Ans.—A lease of a portion of Perry Creek, Kootenay district, has been granted to Lieut-Col. Baker, M. P. P., and Hon. Frederick W. Aylmer, for a term of 25 years at an annual rental of $200. The lease is granted on the condition that not less than $5000 is expended on the leased premises during the first year; not less than $6,000 during the second year; not less than $8,000 during the third year; not less than $8,000 during the fourth year, and thereafter not less than $2,000 during each and every year of the remainder of the said term. The lease contains a clause not only restricting but penalty prohibiting the employment of Chinese "either directly or indirectly in or about or concerning any work or services authorized by the lease or required to be done or performed by the lessees."

Mr. Ladner asked the Hon. the Provincial Secretary the following question: Do the Government intend to take any action to prevent the importation of rabbits into this province?

Ans.—Not until they are in possession of more definite information.

Mr. Beaven asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Land and Works the following question: Has any member of the executive council made application to acquire crown lands or other public property, or obtained a crown grant of such property since 1st January, 1887; if so, what is the date and nature of the application and name of the applicant?

Ans.—Yes; application to purchase 640 acres of land in Kamloops district by J. H. Turner was received at the Land and Works office, March 2d, 1887, and a crown grant has been issued.

FOREIGN MINING COMPANIES.

Hon. Mr. Davie in moving the second reading of the bill incorporating Foreign Mining companies, said the desirability of such a measure had already been discussed, and it was not necessary to go into any extensive detailed statement. The act would be read with an act already in existence in regard to process against foreign companies. The present bill was intended to attract foreign capital to aid in the development of the mines.

Mr. Higgins asked if it was the intention to include foreign companies of all kinds within the meaning of this bill.

Hon. Mr. Davie said it was not the intention to extend the privilege to other than mining companies. The extension to all companies of the privileges proposed in the present bill was a large question and he did not think that manufacturers at present in the province would assent to so great a change.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys thought that the bill did not sufficiently provide against fraudulent companies. He favored the introduction of foreign capital, but thought the same safeguards should be provided as in the case of Dominion or provincial companies.

Mr. Bole said there was no opposition to the bill intended, but the matter should be carefully gone into. It would be a serious matter to the province if an act should be passed which would allow irresponsible companies to operate. Good care should be taken that the very necessary accompainment of capital should be provided for. No loophole for any "bubble" companies should be permitted. He thought a further adjournment should be made for the purpose of further investigation. He would move the adjournment of the debate until Friday.

Carried.

ADJOURNED COMMITTEE—SAN FRANCISCO MAIL SERVICE.

House went into committee on Mr. Duck's resolution. Mr. Croft in the chair.

Mr. Beaven thought that the government had been remiss in the matter. No protest had been entered by the government until the month of January, although the subsidy had been discontinued some months previous. He thought it required an explanation.

Hon. Mr. Robson said it could be readily furnished. As soon as a street rumor had been heard, a member of the executive had sent a telegram in protest. They did not wait for the board of trade to move in the matter, but had acted on the first rumor. He would like to know by what manner of means the government was enabled to act in a matter of which they had no previous knowledge of.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said that the matter discontinuing the subsidy was discussed at the last session of parliament, and it had been discontinued months before action was taken. He (Mr. Beaven) knew of it.

Hon. Mr. Robson—Well, why in the name of all that is reasonable, if you knew of it, did you not, as a member for the city, bring it to the attention of the government?

Mr. Beaven still contended that the government did not act quick enough. Perhaps it was because the hon. provincial secretary was the arch-enemy of Victoria that no action was taken.

Hon. Mr. Turner said that nothing was known by the business community of Victoria of the discontinuance of the subsidy until after it had been brought up by the Board of Trade. The government took action immediately on hearing of it, and as the carrying of the mails was not refused until the first of January, neither they nor the business community were aware of it. He thought the hon. leader of the Opposition was the one who was asleep, for by his own statement he knew of it months before anyone else.

Hon. Mr. Robson though it was in very bad taste for the hon. leader of the Opposition to charge him with being the arch-enemy of Victoria; why, he was the first one to move in the matter so soon as a rumor came to him. That did not show any enmity to Victoria. Whereas, the hon. gentlemen who represented the city, and who knew of the matter months before, had kept it to himself instead of bringing it to the attention of the Board of Trade or the government. He it was who was the enemy of Victoria. Why did not the hon. gentleman desist from repeating in this house the childish stories that he heard on the street and bring in something of a reasonable character. He was simply acting like a snarling cur.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir said that he did not know a single instance where the hon. leader of the opposition had ever brought in anything that in the least benefited his constituents. What in the world did his constituents send him here for? Other members, personally and by letter, represented to the government matters that were of benefit to their districts—but the hon. gentleman was either too small or too big to speak to the government about anything. During the past six sessions of all the matters that were brought in to benefit Victoria, not one had been introduced by the hon. leader of the opposition. They were principally brought forward by Mr. Duck.

Mr. Beaven contended that the Hon. president of the council had made himself rich by his vote in the house. He had never done anything to benefit Victoria or the province (derisive laughter).

Mr. Grant said that the hon. leader of the opposition was one of the most useful men in the house. This was acknowledged by the leader of the government more than once.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir—Yes; he is quite useful to the government in keeping members on this side of the house.

Mr. Semlin thought the president of the council desired to make members merely delegates to ask for land grants for their district, instead of acting as representatives.

Hon. Mr. Vernon said that discussion had taken a very wide range, almost as extended as that which resulted when the motion to go into committee of supply occurred, and he trusted that it would be discontinued. The hon. member for Yale for four years had remained a silent member, but had of late awoke, and now said a great deal; there was not much in what he said, but still he said something. There could be no doubt that the hon. leader of the opposition had been asleep to his constitutents interests—he knew what no one else knew, and bottled it up until to-day. He questioned whether the hon. gentleman knew anything about it.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys amused the house for a few minutes by referring to some literary characters.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said, in answer to the hon. chief commissioner's doubt, that he had the information he claimed. He had learned it from last session's parliamentary debates.

Hon. Mr. Turner said that the amount for the subsidy was placed on the Dominion estimates and it was not discontinued until August. The mails were not refused until last January, and that was the first information anyone had concerning it.

The resolution was reported to the house and passed. Messrs. Turner, Beaven, Duck and Grant being appointed as the select committee.

BALLOT ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. Higgins moved the second reading of the "Ballot Act Amendment Bill," and reviewed its principle. He said that if passed it would do away with the present requirement of packing the ballot boxes over many miles of country before the votes were counted and would insure security and inviolability. It was proposed to count the ballots at the polling places where they were cast and not convey them, as now, to a common centre to be counted by the returning officer. In some respects the bill resembled the Dominion statute. In the case of a city where there was a population of 4,000, the returning officer would be required to divide the constituency into polling places at the rate of one polling place to every 2,000 inhabitants. Last year a similar bill was thrown out at the second reading, but he looked for a better fate for this measure.

Mr. Semlin thought the bill in a measure would do away with the secrecy of the ballot. If ballots were counted in the division cast it would destroy secrecy, because of the limited number of votes in many of them.

Mr. Martin also considered that the object of the ballot—that of secrecy—would be sacrificed if the change proposed was made. If counted at the places polled at, it would be possible to tell exactly what way each man voted. He quoted the recent case at the Dominion election, where every vote in Cooke had been cast for the one candidate, the opposing candidate's agent even voting against him. There were minor matters in the bill which might be desirable.

Col. Baker said, while there might be certain portions of the province where the proposed changes would not be desirable, yet it was questionable whether they would outbalance the question as a whole. In widely scattered districts there was the chance of a ballot-box being tampered with in its transfer to the counting place, and this would invalidate the whole election. He would support the second reading.

Mr. Orr also thought it desirable to have the changes proposed become law. The present act worked very unsatisfactorily in Westminster district, where it was frequently several days before the boxes reached headquarters.

Mr. Fry was of opinion that the proposed alterations would not be detrimental to the secrecy of the ballot in his district.

Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir would support the bill if the section was altered so as to confine its operations to the island.

Hon. Mr. Vernon would support the bill. There was a difference of opinion between himself and his colleagues, but he was quite certain that the proposal to adopt the Dominion principle of counting at the various polling places where ballots were cast was a good one.

Mr. Ladner said it was the universal desire of his district to have the proposed change.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys thought that a compromise might be arrived at in committee.

Mr. Grant thought that the provision was a good one, but there were certain men who did not desire to let it be known which way they voted, and in small communities this could not be avoided, and it would result in certain voters not voting.

Mr. McLeese was sure all electors in Cariboo were independent enough to vote the way they thought best, no matter who knew it. He would also like to see canvassing abolished (hear,) He would vote for the second reading.

Hon. Mr. Davie said it would be difficult to draw the line, if canvassing were to be prohibited. It would be a desirable move, but stringent measures would have to be made in order to ensure its being carried out.

Mr. Beaven said it was a move in the right direction and was similar to an amendment he had previously sought to have incorporated with the ballot act. He would support the second reading, but thought there were other provisions which might also be placed in the bill. With regard to the doing away with personal canvass, he was quite willing that such should be done, if the many difficulties surrounding it could be compassed. It was a most humiliating process that of button-holing every voter and almost compelling him to tell a falsehood. Another practice which should be abolished was that of circulating requisitions to candidates. It was a direct violation of the ballot act, and was a nuisance to all voters, for many simply signed them and voted which way they pleased. He thought the hon. introducer was to be commended for bringing in the bill. He had received a great deal more consideration than that accorded him when he had introduced his bill, when it had been ruled out of the power of a private member to bring in such a bill.

Mr. Anderson endorsed the remarks of the leader of the opposition and considered the bill a desirable one.

Hon. Mr. Davie, referring to the possibility of passing an act which would prohibit personal canvassing, was of opinion that every candidate would observe it, for the simple reason that it would bring him under the stricture of every voter canvassed should he do so, and therefore such a provision would be operative.

Hon. Mr. Humphreys stated that a commission of the house of commons had reported that, in their opinion, it would be impossible to bring in a measure that would be operative.

The motion to go into committee Thursday passed and the house adjourned.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Ladner, on Monday next—To ask leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act to Alter and Amend the Municipality Amendment Act, 1887."

Mr. Higgins, on Wednesday next—To move that 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, have resulted 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 surprise, regret and indignation 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.

Mr. Beaven, on Friday next—To move Whereas a petition has been presented in accordance with section 51 of the trial of controverted election act, 1871, from certain electors of the electoral district of Victoria city alleging that there is reason to believe that corrupt practices extensively prevailed at the last election for the said district which was held on the 23rd, 24th and 25th day of January, 1888.

Be it therefore resolved, that a respectful address be presented to his honor the lieut.-governor praying that commissioners may be appointed to inquire into the allegation contained in the above petition in accordance with the section of the statute above mentioned.

Mr. Mason, on Friday next—Whereas the postmaster-general of Canada has called for tenders for the conveyance of H. M. mails between Ashcroft and Clinton and 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 provide a passenger coach, the result of which has been found detrimental to the public interest. Resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Hon. the Lieut.-Governor praying that His Honor will urge upon the dominion government the importance of maintaining the service under one contract between Ashcroft 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 as the former contractors be held with two sureties under a bond of $20,000 as a satisfactory guarantee that the work will be properly performed.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Humphreys on Friday next—To ask the Hon. the chief commissioner of lands and works: Has any member of the executive council or other persons made application to acquire crown land, or other public property, at or in the vicinity of Fort Rupert or Beecher Bay, or obtained a crown grant since 1st January, 1887, if so, what is the date and nature of the application and name of the applicant?

THE NEW TREATY.

An Interview With one of the Commissioners—Who Defines Several of the Articles—Fishermen's Criticism.

(Special to THE COLONIST.)

PORTLAND (Me.), Feb. 22.—The *Press* will to-morrow print an interview with Hon. W. L. Putnam, one of the fishery commissioners, who says, that as to bait the eleventh clause provides fully for all cases of stress of weather. A senate subcommittee was sent out in 1886, and reported, after full investigation that, as regards catching cod for bait, there is no necessity whatever for American fishermen to resort to Canadian waters for that purpose. It was proved before the committee that with the rarest exception it would be absolutely injurious to the pecuniary interests of all concerned in American vessels to resort to Dominion ports or waters, except in need or distress. As to 29th article of the treaty of 1871, concerning transhipment in bond, Mr. Putnam said: "I believe a careful examination of its terms context and history in connection with the peculiar phraseology of the first section of the convention of 1818 will satisfy a majority of impartial lawyers accustomed to examine such questions, that it does not include fishing vessels, or their catch; as to all other matters the treaty meets all the difficulties which arose in 1886 and 1887, and fishermen will practically secure by it all they desire freely, and without making compensation therefor. This is not to be regarded as a victory, but as the working out of a just principle in a friendly spirit. The 14th article concerning penalties will be found in practice to be a great gain for our vessels.

Interviews with Portland fishermen shows opinions are generally adverse to the treaty, and they criticise it freely.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., Feb. 22.—The fishery interests here condemn the treaty *in toto*. It is claimed that we lose valuable privileges in Newfoundland waters, especially the right to procure bait, outfits, etc., and to land, tranship and dry fish. The line drawn at Fortune Bay is also said to exclude us from valuable waters and to debar us from getting frozen herring there.

CAPITAL NOTES.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

OTTAWA, Feb. 22.—Parliament opens to-morrow with the usual formalities. The governor-general in his speech will congratulate parliament on the general prosperity of the country, will refer to the abundant harvest in the Northwest Territories, and will express the hope that the fisheries treaty will be regarded as honorable and satisfactory to both nations. The following government measures are promised: To amend the railway act; to amend the election act to render it more effective; to amend the controverted elections' act to remove certain questions of interpretation; to simplify the Dominion franchise act and to lessen the cost of its operation, and to apply a larger portion of the modern laws of England to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. Other measures are relative to the judiciary, civil service and the audit of the public accounts.

The provisions of the fisheries treaty are satisfactory to the members of the government but they decline to anticipate the debate in parliament.

LOCAL BRIEFS.

Rev. Dr. Reid has removed his residence from Church Hill to the northeast corner of Fort and Quadra streets.

The police court presented a deserted appearance yesterday morning, as no cases came up at the appointed hour for sitting.

The roof of the Arlington hotel, at Seattle, caught fire again on Monday afternoon, caused by the upsetting of a tarpot. The flames were soon smothered.

It is intended to have a race for Island bred horses at Beacon Hill on the 31st March. Four horses have already entered and seven more are expected. Entries close on the 3rd inst. A good day's sport is expected.

Among others, Mr. Wm. Downie, assistant superintendent of the C. P. R., is unfortunate enough to hold $1,000 in the defunct Central Bank. Mr. Downie not only loses his stock, but becomes liable for $1,000 more to satisfy the bank's creditors.—*Columbian.*

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, Feb. 23.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

More Smallpox.

More cases of smallpox are in the pest house back of Port Townsend. The afflicted are the men who were engaged to bury the seaman who died on the schooner Courser.

The Comox Coal Mines.

Says the Nanaimo *Free Press*: Mr. John Dick and party left by the steamer Pilot yesterday to commence operations at the new coal mines to be opened up by Messrs. Dunsmuir & Sons on their Union and Perseverance properties at Comox. Mr. J. Hunter, C. E., with a party of surveyors, axemen, etc., to lay out the line of railways, etc., also went up on the Pilot.

He Got Even