

MINING MEASURES EVOKE DISCUSSION

Member For Nanaimo Told the House That B. C. Courts Were 'Rotten'

(From Thursday's Daily.) Yesterday was private members' day in the legislature, and the proceedings were for the most part the consideration of bills...

Mr. Hawthornthwaite, however, went right on. As long as the courts were what they are, he declared, he would criticize them. 'I merely called them rotten,' he explained. 'This is not swearing. It is not unchristian. It is a word that should be more frequently used in speaking of the institutions of this province.'

He went on to say that the province was getting to be full of cripples, out of all proportion to the population, and it was time some effort was made to protect the mine worker. The bill was put on the second reading, and lost, 14 to 23. The division was as follows: Yes: King, Naden, Hall, Jones, Yorston, Oliver, Macdonald, Henderson, Munro, Jardine, Brewster, Williams, Hawthornthwaite, McInnis.

Mr. Taylor's bill to amend the Highway Traffic Regulation bill was read a second time. It provides that no wagon or vehicle carrying a load of more than two thousand pounds shall be drawn over any public highway unless the tires of such vehicle be at least four inches in width. It also provides that logs or timber shall not be dragged over a public highway.

The attorney-general said that at the close of the last session the Premier had promised that during the recess he would look into this matter. The government had not seen its way clear to bring in a bill or to support this one. The bill carries a great deal of weight on the side of the mine worker, but it was not to be expected that he should be placed in a better position than any other class.

The Premier added two arguments against the bill. First, there was no general demand on the part of the province for the bill. In the second place, it was not necessary for the physical condition of any large number of men. The Socialist leader, however, would like to have the eight-hour law applicable to all phases of industry which would greatly retard industry in the province.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite (Nanaimo) followed the Premier, and made a bitter attack on the mining policy of the administration. 'I have sat in this House a number of years,' declared the Socialist leader, 'and time and again have heard labor bills attacked. There is never any variation in the reasons assigned for the opposition. It is always the condition of the market. The Premier asked for time to investigate this matter. I venture to say that he confined his investigations solely to the capitalists. Indeed, he challenges me to give me the name of one working man in the districts of which he speaks.'

Mr. Hawthornthwaite interrupted, this time to state that almost every month he had labor delegations to see him. Mr. Hawthornthwaite admitted that as a matter of form such delegations sometimes called on the Premier after they had consulted their representatives in the House. He said that all the trouble arising from the eight-hour law in the Kootenays originated with the labor agitators, the real anarchists of the province, who refused to obey the laws. Since that time there had been few labor troubles in British Columbia. The working men were directing their energies towards political methods, as they did in all civilized countries. If political aid was refused they would go back to trade union methods, methods of force.

prospector could not develop a claim at all. Mr. Brewster explained that the bill did not interfere at all with an owner, but only with the man who takes a license on the basis of a mining property. The member for Nanaimo said that this only made the matter worse. Also, the clause allowing the miner to relinquish his rights under the act meant that no miner could obtain work until he had signed such release. This was a clause stamped the bill as a humbug. In conclusion he stated that British Columbia had the instrument of torture known as the 'black list,' and any miner who stood up for his rights was driven from the province. The bill on its second reading was voted down, 13 to 22. The division was as follows: Yes: King, Naden, Hall, Jones, Yorston, Oliver, Macdonald, Henderson, Munro, Jardine, Brewster, Williams, Hawthornthwaite, McInnis.

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The Provincial Elections Act, which is now before the committee, seems likely to have some fairly drastic amendments before it reaches its final stages. The Leader of the Opposition suggested that the time stated in the bill to elapse between the closing of the lists and the sitting of the court of revision was too short. He wished the bill to be amended, so that the lists should close the first Monday in April and October, instead of the second Monday in those months.

He also suggested that a clause be inserted in the act regarding the registration of voters to wipe out names from the list for the following reasons: death, having ceased for a year to reside in the district; lack of qualification to vote; discovery that the voter was not qualified when his name was placed on the list.

The Attorney-General suggested that Mr. Macdonald should have those amendments placed on the order sheet, and the bill should be read a second time. The Minister of Agriculture introduced a bill for an act to regulate the sale of certain poisonous substances to be used exclusively in agriculture and horticulture. This, he explained, was in order to facilitate the obtaining of the lists and the registration of voters. The bill passed first reading.

Mr. McInnis asked the Hon. the Minister of Mines the following questions: 1. Has any inspection been made of the mill which has built more than 50 of the most modern and up-to-date paper mills of Canada on the erection of the pulp and paper mill at Quatsino Sound, Vancouver Island, a modern plant for the manufacture of wood pulp, newspaper, paper box board, and a general line of wrapping paper. It has no patents, no new schemes for the manufacture of pulp or paper, or no mysterious or intricate processes for the manufacture of these products.

The Premier's Criticism The Premier stated that he, with the aid of the then attorney-general, had tried for several years ago to find a solution to the puzzle but without success. If the present bill is a remedy, he would not stand to lose so much. Mr. Oliver (Delta) said that when a serious grievance is presented in the present case, it was the duty of the government to devise a remedy. The Premier had promised a remedy, but he had failed of carrying out his promise. Miners were in a category by themselves. Millmen had an organization, but there was nothing to be realized from a worthless hole in the ground. The government, before accepting a tender insisted on the tenderer having a bank account, and why should not the same rule apply to a miner?

'If the government has not the ability to grapple with this question,' remarked Mr. Oliver, 'let them resign and let in people who have.' Mr. Bower: 'Would the hon. member accept a similar amendment with regard to farm laborers?' Mr. Oliver: 'Yes. Agricultural laborers have the crops for their security, and they can even take the stool from under the milkmaid as she milks the cow.'

The member for Delta urged that the bill be allowed to pass second reading, and then, if necessary, the clause about certificates could be put up to the department of mines. Mr. Hawthornthwaite (Nanaimo) made a fierce onslaught on the bill as it stood, while declaring that he intended to vote for its second reading in order that it might be amended in committee. 'My great objection to the bill is that it is useless, in fact worse than useless,' he said. 'As regards the statements about miners' losses, they are absolutely correct, and every clause should be taken to provide a bill that will protect them. They have asked for it, and the member for Alberni has given them a stone.'

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However, Mr. Hawthornthwaite declared that a bill brought down by a president after he leaves the white house. Mr. B. Esmond from Vancouver is over in the Capital on a business trip for a few days.

Advertisement for Young's Umbrellas. Features an illustration of a man and a woman with umbrellas. Text: 'DON'T MISS YOUNG'S RUMMAGE SALE IT'S UMBRELLAS TODAY'. Lists various types of umbrellas and their prices. Ends with 'HENRY YOUNG & COMPANY 1123 Government Street, Victoria, B.C.'

Advertisement for Western Canada Wood Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd. Text: 'Some Reasons Why'. Discusses the company's operations, quality of products, and market reach. Mentions the Quatsino Sound mill and various types of paper produced.

Advertisement for Western Canada Wood Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd. Text: 'WE NOW OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION the remainder of the first issue of 300,000 7% PREFERENCE SHARES in Blocks of 100 Shares at \$1 per Share'. Includes details on payment terms and a list of directors and officers.

Advertisement for Western Canada Wood Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd. Text: 'SUBSCRIBE FOR THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST'. Promotes the company's publication and provides contact information for subscriptions.

Advertisement for the Board of Trade. Text: 'HOW CANADA'S EXPORTS MAY BE INCREASED'. Discusses the committee's reports and the board's efforts to improve trade and industry. Mentions the secretary's letter and the board's recommendations.

Advertisement for the B. C. Reformatories. Text: 'Annual Meeting of the B. C. Reformatories'. Announces the meeting on February 22nd and 23rd, listing the agenda and speakers. Includes details about the reformatory's work and the speaker Mr. Stevenson of Manitoba.