

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

MEMBERS CONSIDER ROUTINE BUSINESS

The Opposing Leaders Were Both Absent From Their Places in the House.

Victoria, Feb. 9th, 1906.

In the legislature this afternoon the McGill College bill was considered in committee. The government insisted upon the bill being gone on with and backed up by their following, forced their views upon the House. The chief sponsor for the bill proved not to be the minister of education but Hon. F. Carter Cotton, one of the trustees named in the bill. The House enjoyed the unusual spectacle of seeing Mr. Cotton thoroughly excited in defence of his bill. The president of the council, perhaps to a greater extent than any other member of the House, being worsted in debate. Today he was fairly caught by the Socialist leader, and Mr. Cotton in seeking a way out of the difficulty shouted at the top of his voice. The members of the House heartily enjoyed the situation and applauded Mr. Hawthornthwaite on his warring of the member for Richmond. The president of the council had contended that section 8 of the bill gave McGill no special privileges. Later, when confronted with the treatment accorded Columbia College, Mr. Cotton said that the privileges accorded McGill were of the strength of its being undenominational, which could not be done with Columbia College, a denominational institution. Mr. Hawthornthwaite pointed out that if there were no special privileges granted McGill there was nothing to deny Columbia.

The bill to reduce the deposit of candidates at the provincial elections has been disposed of, the committee rising to-day on a test vote.

Prayers were read by Rev. F. T. Tapscott.

New Bills.

The following bills were read a first time.

A bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act, introduced by Hon. C. Wilson.

A bill to further amend the Vancouver General Hospital Act, 1902, introduced by Hon. F. J. Fulton.

A bill to amend the Statutes and Journals Act, introduced by Hon. F. J. Fulton.

Questions.

John Oliver asked the hon. the chief commissioner of lands and works the following questions:

1. How much land (if any) has been reserved to allow the Quatsino Pulp & Paper Company to select its pulp lands?

2. How much land has been leased to this company, and on what terms?

3. Has the time expired during which the company might select its lands?

4. If time has expired for selection, has the reserve been cancelled on lands not selected?

5. If not, why not?

6. Has the government received any applications for pre-emption within the areas of land reserved but not selected?

7. If so, have these applications been refused?

The Hon. R. F. Green replied:

1. Approximately 208,280 acres.

2. 48,628 acres; a blank form of lease is now laid on a table.

3. Yes.

4. Expired by effluxion of time.

5. Answered by No. 4.

6. Yes.

7. No application would be granted without consent of the company, as the land within the reserve was not open to pre-emption.

Provincial Elections Act.

The bill to amend the Provincial Elections Act was committed, with L. W. Shatford in the chair.

L. W. Shatford moved to make the deposit \$100 instead of \$50, as proposed by the bill of J. H. Hawthornthwaite.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite objected to the amendment.

Hon. R. G. Tatlow said that he was of the opinion that the vote a few days ago on the second reading of the bill represented a minority of the House. To put it to a test he proposed that the committee rise.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite objected to this. He said that the finance minister represented prehistoric views on the subject.

John Houston thought it was absurd to put a question over from day to day. This question should be settled now. He did not approve of putting it off from day to day in order to arrange a settlement.

Hon. R. G. Tatlow replying to Mr. Hawthornthwaite, said that he came to the House with an entirely different mandate from that on which the member for Nanaimo came to the legislature. Mr. Hawthornthwaite was sent to introduce certain laws. He was not sent for that purpose, and he was not going to be forced into consenting to such a decision.

Premier McBride was in favor of the \$50 deposit. He attempted to show that S. Henderson had not voted consistently last year on the question. He was corrected by Mr. Henderson, who declared that he voted against the \$50 and the \$100 deposit proposals last year. The premier had to acknowledge after consulting the records to agree that Mr. Henderson had voted consistently.

J. A. Macdonald said that if it was proposed to reduce the deposit he would rather favor doing away with the deposit altogether and provide for amendments to the election act by which representatives would have to be confined to majority votes. This was provided for in other countries and might be provided for in this province.

Hon. C. Wilson favored this proposal of Mr. Macdonald.

John Oliver pointed out that there were thirteen minority representatives on the floor of the House, including the

two Socialists. Of these minority members nine were Conservatives and three were Liberals. The member for Fernie got 316 votes out of 594. The member for Greenwood represented only one-third of the voters. The member for Kaslo himself got only one-third of the votes.

Hon. Mr. Green interjected that he would have got the majority had there been no Socialist in the field.

The member for Nanaimo got only 488 votes out of 1,105, continued Mr. Oliver.

The member for Newcastle got 285 votes out of 730. The member for Revelstoke secured only one-third of the votes. All the members for Vancouver were minority representatives.

Mr. Houston was astonished to hear a German system of representation advocated for British Columbia. Is a German system to be preferred to the British system? Would Mr. Oliver go back and appeal to the Delta farmer on that principle? The farmers of Delta selected an Englishman to represent them. He did not know before that Mr. Oliver was so advanced in thought as this. He did not want to see German, or Russian systems introduced here.

Parker Williams held that John Oliver was a minority representative, as he did not secure half the votes on the voters' list.

Chas. Munro was sorry that the debate had taken the low level which it did. He was sorry that it should be taken on the ground of party expediency. He did not represent a minority. If the Germans had a better system than we had he was prepared to adopt it if it tended to the better representation of the province.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite contended that labor candidates had to seek the deposit of \$200 in many cases from one of the other parties.

"Which party supplied it last time?" asked Mr. Oliver.

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"Names," called Mr. Oliver.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said he did not propose to give names at present.

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H. E. Tanner did not like to see so many rural constituencies represented by persons other than farmers. This was not in the interests of the province he believed. He favored the \$100 deposit.

T. W. Paterson thought that any man who could not put up a deposit of \$200 either by himself or obtain it from his friends would not be missed from the House.

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J. D. McNiven said that as a labor man he came to the conclusion that this amendment was not to their advantage. The labor party was very much divided in politics. The Socialists pretended to represent the whole of the labor men. He denied that the whole was true, and he was glad that the Socialists did not represent the labor party. An election with a small deposit would mean that the Socialist element, the trades unionist section and other branches would each have a candidate in the field. The result would be that the chance of labor representation would be very small. He favored the abolition of the deposit and an amendment to the election law, which would safeguard the best interests of all classes.

John Houston did not know whether he was a labor man or not. He, however, knew that each time he offered himself as a candidate he had to borrow his deposit and some of his best colleagues on his side of the House did similarly. He, however, believed that any party, whether labor or Socialist, that stood by its principles could elect its man.

The motion that the committee rise carried.

Smelter Bill.

On the second reading of the bill regulating hours of labor in certain industries W. Davidson said that the bill when introduced last year had been favored in principle, but was voted down. The arguments against the bill in last year was that it would result in the closing down of the smelters. This argument was done away with by the fact that most of the large smelters had made an honest effort to remedy the injustice.

It had also been urged that the smelter on this side of the line would be placed in an unfair position with respect to the works on the other side of the line. This was answered by the fact that the same law was in force in most of the states.

It was urged against the bill last year that the working men had not asked for it. This was all done away with now and was brought by the men. The system of an eight hour day should be uniform. There was danger that with the change of management in some of the smelters which had adopted the system that the hours of labor might be increased.

He was prepared to accept an amendment to provide for the extension of the hours of labor in the case of an accident should be settled now. He did not approve of putting it off from day to day in order to arrange a settlement.

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Builders' Hardware
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General Hardware
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Bananas doz. 25c
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98 Government St., Near Yates St.

MINERAL ACT.
(FORM F)
CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS.
Edison Mineral Claims situate in the Quatsino Mining Division of Rupert District.
Where located: West side of Southeast Arm of Quatsino Sound.
Take notice that E. D. Murphy, Premier's Certificate No. 133550, and R. D. Murphy, Premier's Certificate No. 133551,