

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Seventh Parliament.

FIFTY-FIRST DAY.

MONDAY, Feb. 11, 1895.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 p.m.

Prayers by Rev. Dr. Campbell.

Mr. KITCHEN presented a petition from

Cook's church, Chilliwack, asking for the

passage of an act to provide for the better

observance of the Lord's day.

Mr. GRANT introduced a bill to amend

the cattle protection act, 1891. Read a first

time.

Major MUTTER introduced a bill to

amend the line fence and water courses

act and amending acts. Read a first time.

Mr. HELMCKEN moved for a return

showing the acreage of all lands assessed

against educational, ecclesiastical, religious,

and charitable corporations (distinguishing

the same) in the different districts of the

province of British Columbia for the year

1894, showing the value for which said

lands are assessed, and the amount of taxes

collected on the same, and the arrears (if

any). He explained that he desired the

information for the better understanding of

a bill now before the house.

Motion agreed to on division. Mr. Turner

stating, however, that it would be impossible

to have the information ready before the close

of the session.

Mr. KELLER asked leave to withdraw his

former bill respecting the payment of the

interest on the loan, and introduced a new one on the subject.

Bill read a first time.

MINERAL ACT.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS, on consideration of the

report on the mineral act amendment bill,

moved to add a clause authorizing the

Lieutenant-Governor in Council to make

such orders as he deemed necessary from

time to time to carry out the provisions of

the act according to their true intent or to

meet the cases which may arise and for

which no provision is made or when the pro-

vision which is made is ambiguous or doubt-

ful. Agreed to.

Mr. KELLER moved to insert the follow-

ing: "13. Any mineral claim or claims

held in undisturbed possession at the time of

the passing of this act, notwithstanding any

irregularities that might have occurred from

the lapse at any time of a miner's certificate,

or from any other cause, and notwithstanding

any provision in law to the contrary, shall

be deemed to be held lawfully within the

meaning of this act: Provided, always,

that the holder of such claim shall have done

the amount of assessment work on said claim

which otherwise would be necessary to main-

tain the same." Lost, after brief discussion,

as majority's will, the selling of drugs and

medicines, and other works of necessity and

charity.

After considerable discussion, on the same

lines as that upon the second reading, Mr.

Rogers moved that the committee re-

franchise the bill, but he thought that the committee

might wish to have the bill amended in

some particulars before it was brought back.

The motion was lost on division.

After further discussion the committee rose and reported pro-

posed a new section: "13. On and after the

passing of this act it shall be unlawful for

any alien, unless he declares his intention of

becoming a British subject, to hold any

mineral claim by location, or to hold any

claim by lease, or to hold any claim by

reference to any location made by such alien

before the passing of this act."

Hon. Col. BAKER opposed the proposi-

tion, as it would tend to discourage the in-

troduction of capital into the province.

Mr. SMITH favored the amendment.

Agreed to; further consideration of re-

port deferred.

PLACER MINING ACT.

Mr. SWORD, on consideration of report

on the placer mining act amendment bill,

moved to insert the following as a new sec-

tion: "The provisions of this act shall not

extend to or alter the position of any lease,

the question of the validity of which is now

in litigation, or to any rights now ac-

quired by any person." Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS said he quite recog-

nized that this amendment was proposed to

amend the special case which a short time

ago was before the house, and he objected

to it, because the effect would be under

the rather stringent provisions of the act of last

session, to compel the gold commissioner to

declare unfavorable any lease which happens

to be in litigation, whether or not it is

otherwise a valid lease. He thought that the

bill as it stood afforded all the

desirable protection to vested rights,

and it would be retrospective effect

whatever. He might have gone a little

further than he had, and introduced ex-

post facto legislation to declare valid a lease

which has been attacked; but while he

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