Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1885.

FIGHTING SHIPS OF THE FUTURE

The London Post protests strongly against building any more iron-clads. It enumerates the disadvantages entailed on the British Navy by the application of armor plates to the sides or batteries of line-of-battle (or fighting) ships as follows; 1. The expense of iron or steel armor adequate to increase the ever-increasing power of artillery is simply monstrous. 2. All fire from shipboard is known to be more or less inacurate, and the chances of a ship being struck in a vital part are very small indeed. 3. But if the armor-plating of a ship's battery or turret be struck, and if it be not wholly impervious to the shell striking it, the effect of the blow is enhanced, and the shield actually becomes an instrument for rendering the blow more deadly to the gunners behind it. 4. A ship has a certain tonnage displacement, according to which her weights have to be arranged. Hence, every ounce of armor weight decreases the gun weight or coal weight that she can carry. 5. Iron-clad fighting ships are necessarily of such a prodigious size that to possess a numerous navy and to conduct a great naval war on the principles that must be followed if we are to maintain a dominant position on the seas—that is, as a war of aggression—is a financial impossibility. 6. It is almost certain that the bulk of the educated naval opinion of the present day favors the view that the skillful use of the ram will be the guiding object in future naval engagements. Now, a modern iron-clad is about as handy an instrument for use in ramming maneuvers as—well, let us say an old cow at a pump. 7. Next to the ram the torpedo, or torpedo vessel, is probably the most efficient naval-fighting weapon. But an enormous iron-clad is singularly open to attacks from torpedoes, and its size gives it no particular advantage in directing such attacks. 8. The great size, draught, and cost of iron-clads inevitably tend to reduce the feeling which should be uppermost in any captain's mind, that he "can go anywhere and do anything" with his ship. In fact, it renders him cautious—a deadly quality for naval minds. What, then, should we substitute for these gigantic armored floating machines? To us it appears that the type of first class fighting ship which most nearly meets the requirements of the day is as follows: An unarmored corvette without sails, of two thousand to four thousand tons displacement, possessing good sea qualities, an armament of maximum weight and power, an under-water steel protecting deck, great capacity of coal stowage, handiness, facilities for ramming and torpedoing, and as much speed as can be given her. Such vessels would cost comparatively small sums, and we could maintain many squadrons of them.

AFTER INSURANCE COMPANIES.

It is the intention of the Dominion government to introduce an amendment to the insurance act of 1879 with a view to preventing all unlicensed companies, both life and fire, doing business in Canada. Under the existing law a large amount of "underground insurance" is done by United States companies who do not hold Dominion licenses. The penalty for soliciting or effecting business in such companies is $1,000, but as all such prosecutions must be carried on through the minister of justice, steps are seldom taken against guilty parties, owing to the great amount of red tape that has to be gone through to get at them.

THE CITY SHOULD OWN THE GASWORKS.

A day or two back the experience of Richmond, Virginia, was cited to show how cheaply a town may supply itself with gas and realize a large profit. It was shown that since the Richmond town council has taken charge of the gas supply they have furnished it to citizens at 80 cents a thousand. Last year they sold gas and coke to the amount of $224,[illegible], lighted the streets at a cost of $[illegible] and realized a net profit of $[illegible].

A recent number of the Engineer mentions the town of Lipton, Eng., which one year ago bought the gas works and took the supply of light into their own hands. The result has exceeded all expectations. The city during the twelve-month sold £7004 worth of gas at three shillings per thousand, the cost to produce which was £2276, leaving a net profit of £4726. The difference between 80 cents or 3 shillings and $4 per thousand is so marked that one's breath is suspended in contemplation of what the profits of the Victoria Gas Co. must be. Coal and lime are at our doors and are astonishingly cheap. The small amount of labor employed is not more than 50 per cent. higher than the ruling rates in Virginia, and our citizens are forced—because the Gas Company have a monopoly—to pay 300 per cent. in excess of a rate that in England and Virginia yields a profit of from 50 to 75 per cent. on the investment. If the Victoria company is given the benefit of the disadvantages of high labor and an antiquated plant the cost of production cannot possibly exceed $1 per thousand feet. Their profits are, therefore, simply enormous. The gas works are the best paying concern on the coast. There is nothing that pays better on the continent. They yield a clear profit of $3 per thousand; if they do not, shareholders should ask the reason why. For every $4 the reader pays the Gas Company, $3 go into the pockets of shareholders, some of whom live in Europe on the revenue they draw from their investment here. Is it any wonder that in many stores and dwellings coal oil has lately been substituted for gas, and that several stores and workshops are preparing to light with electricity next winter? What has been done in Richmond and Lipton can be done here. The city council should ask the ratepayers for authority to purchase a modern and economical plant, and should proceed to manufacture a better article and supply it at $1 per thousand to consumers, and light the streets thoroughly. Gas, if furnished at that rate, would immediately supersede coal oil in every shop and house; it would come into general use for heating purposes, and would be introduced where power is required in manufactories to drive small engines. The consumption would be quadrupled. The people have suffered long enough from this heavy tax on light, and look to the present mayor and council to lift the burthen from their shoulders.

THE CHINESE COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

Last summer when the Chinese commission sat in this city the workingmen were counselled by some of their leaders not to appear before the body and give evidence. They were told—which was true enough—that the *personnel* of the commission was objectionable; but the bad advice was added that no person who had the anti-Chinese agitation at heart should furnish any information to the members. At a public meeting held in the Town Hall it was resolved to keep away from the commissioners and leave them to ascertain the facts for themselves. *The Colonist* denounced this course as impolitic. Conceding that the commission was not properly constituted for the reasons that Mr. Justice Gray was an employer of Chinese labor and a strong pro-Chinese advocate, and that Mr. Chapleau was totally unacquainted with Chinese character, habits and history, it was nevertheless pointed out that it was the duty of the Ottawa members, the workingmen and the public generally to place before the commission all the information of which they were possessed. The provincial government did its best to bring forward evidence, but they were sadly hampered by the hostility of several prominent citizens. The Knights of Labor did finally come forward in defiance of the resolutions of the public meeting and gave valuable assistance; but certain grave charges that had been made at Ottawa against the Chinese population remained unproved and the commissioners drew their labors to a close here with a favorable impression of the Chinese. We have not a word to say in defence of the report. Even with the meagre array of evidence before them it is unjustifiable and is unworthy the commissioners; but the representative men of the working classes failed in their duty and we did not hesitate to warn them that they would live to regret their course. An opportunity was lost which may never again occur, and the commissioners have apparently made the most of the mistaken policy of those who ought to have been foremost in making good their charges. What the Dominion government or parliament will do with the report can only be surmised. There is a growing conviction at the east that the Chinese are a very undesirable population, and public opinion there should be strong enough to force the government to adopt a stringent measure. The recommendation of a tax of $10 a head is as great an absurdity as the statement that the Chinese would thrive in the hyperborean regions of the Northwest, when the fact is that a Chinaman does not thrive in extremely cold latitudes. Besides, how is the Northwest to be peopled by a class of immigrants who are wifeless? The recommendation that the provincial legislature of British Columbia should regulate the domestic service phase of the question sounds as if the commissioners were poking fun at the province. The provincial legislature, last session, passed two measures affecting Mongolian legislation, at least one of which was disallowed at Ottawa. The answer of the province to the report of the commissioners should be a re-enactment of those measures so that the Dominion parliament and people will understand that this country is in earnest in its agitation and that it will leave no constitutional means unturned to put an end to Chinese immigration.

THE DEFENCE QUESTION.

Yesterday we gave place to a letter from a gentleman who has not studied the science of war as a pastime, but as a profession. The writer has spent many years of his life in Her Majesty's service and is in every respect competent to speak, with emphasis, as to the chief strategic points of the province. He agrees with the distinguished naval and military authorities who selected Esquimalt and Royal Roads as the point that must be defended if the key of the province is not to be allowed to pass into foreign hands. This morning place is given to a letter from Mr. Gilbert Malcolm Sproat, late agent general in London for the province. Mr. Sproat quotes the opinions of Admiral Sir G. Richards, the Earl of Lauderdale, Major-General Moody and others in the same direction. Mr. Sproat further shows that the completion of the island railway will make Esquimalt a coaling station; and that, although a raiding party might easily tap the trans-continental railway at several points in the interior, Her Majesty's fleet could not be crippled so long as they held a firm grip on the southern part of Vancouver Island, with Esquimalt as a refitting, recruiting and coaling station. It is to be hoped that this matter will receive a very wide and thorough ventilation, in view of the pledge of the Dominion government not to select a spot for the barracks until after General Middleton shall have made a personal inspection of the several localities.

HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF.

The English corn legislation of the early part of this century is strongly suggested by recent events in Germany. It will be remembered that in 1815 the British parliament passed an act prohibiting the importation of foreign wheat until the price of wheat reached $2.50 a bushel. As if this were not a great enough concession to the landed proprietors, Mr. Weston, in 1816, introduced into parliament a series of resolutions which declared that the class of persons who had invested their money in agriculture were suffering "unexampled distress," and that "it is necessary to give more protection to all articles the product of our own soil against similar articles the growth of foreign countries." These resolutions were adopted and further measures of protection were passed in 1822. After many years have elapsed the same drama appears on the German stage, witness the recent imposition of three marks, about 70 cents, on foreign wheat and rye by the reichstag. The measure was strongly opposed by the liberals and socialists who are mainly the residents of cities, but Bismarck was upheld by the church party, the imperialists and the center who represent chiefly the country supporters of the government. Now the lieutenant-governor suggests another parallel between the German and English corn struggles. The countries which will be most affected by the new German tariff are shown by the following table of the imports of 1882-83.

	Bushels.
Russia	6,119,108
Austro-Hungary	6,025,053
Belgium	1,589,373
United States	1,567,130
Great Britain	1,916,204
Bremen and Hamburg	563,857
Netherlands	903,506

Germany produces about 250,000,000 bushels of rye each year and about 94,000,000 bushels of wheat. Of these 32,000,000 bushels of rye and 12,000,000 bushels of wheat are required for seed—leaving about 217,000,000 bushels rye and 82,000,000 bushels wheat for consumption. In 1882-83, the last year of which we have official returns, she imported 21,314,330 bushels rye and 26,599,191 bushels wheat, which were needed to make up the excess of her consumption over her production. It is this amount of food which the new law, just passed by the reichstag, proposes to exclude in order to "protect" the wheat growers notwithstanding the fact that they now receive the, to our eyes, phenomenal price of $51 a ton.

THE SCOTT ACT.

One of the most plausible objections urged against the Scott Act, even among those who, while recognizing the evils of intemperance, do not believe in prohibition, is that its adoption will cause a serious loss to the public treasury. The Ontario government estimated a net loss from licenses last year of $40,000, and as the act has lately been adopted in a number of new counties, the returns at the end of this year will, no doubt, be still further diminished. The loss to the Dominion government must be even more considerable. From excise and import duties on wines and spirits the Dominion receives annually about six million dollars and this source of revenue the Scott Act will eventually be cut off. These are indisputable facts, but there is much to be said on the other side of the question. If the liquor traffic fills the coffers of the government, it empties the pockets of the poor; it makes many a man, who without it would be a respectable mechanic or laborer, a drunken idler; and lastly it is the cause of lawlessness and crime, and fills our penitentiaries and prisons. Would not the loss of the liquor revenue be nearly if not quite made up by the decrease in the expense of enforcing the laws? If the law-breaking and crime resulting from the use of liquor were withdrawn from the aggregate mass a smaller judicial and police force would be sufficient and the greatly diminished number of prisoners maintained at government expense would make a vast difference in the estimates for this branch of government expenditure. When in addition to this, the moral benefit to the community is considered, it does not seem as if the country has much to fear from the adoption of prohibition. It is a great experiment and if the youngest among the nations is able to make of it a success, not all the glorious wars of the past will compare with this victory of Canada's.

THE ANTI-CHINESE BILL.

Mr. Theo. Davie's bill which was passed last session and disallowed at Ottawa, was re-enacted yesterday by the house. It imposes stringent penalties on any person bringing a Chinaman into the province and provides for the due imprisonment of all Chinamen who may enter the country upon any pretext whatever. The act which is to come into force immediately upon the rising of the house is British Columbia's answer to the Chinese commissioners' report. The mover of the bill stated that he had no doubts of its constitutionality.

BRITISH COLUMBIA DEFENCES.

Opinions of Admiral Richards, the Earl of Lauderdale, Major-Gen. Moody, and Others

FAVOR ESQUIMALT AS THE CHIEF STRATEGIC POINT

Letter from Mr. Gilbert Malcolm Sproat.

To the Editor:—Having frequently during the last twenty-five years, both in this place and in England, discussed the defences of British Columbia with high naval and military authorities—Admiral Sir G. Richards, Admiral the Earl of Lauderdale, Major-General Moody, R. E., and many others of both services—I can state the concurrent opinion of those officers without myself presuming to say anything on what is strictly a professional question. The discussions arose from time to time on proposals to make Alberni or Nanaimo, or Burrard Inlet or Esquimalt the naval headquarters and site of a naval dock. Having interests at Alberni I argued strongly, for business reasons to me personal, in favor of that place and against Esquimalt. The unanimous opinion of these authorities was that the defence of British Columbia was more a naval than a military question—that whatever power had the strongest fleet in our waters would command the province; that the eastern end of the Straits of Fuca was the heart of the defence with, perhaps, a battery at Seymour Narrows to sink an escaping ship; and, that the accessibleness of Esquimalt and the convenience of that harbor to the straits marked it for headquarters despite its distance from the Nanaimo coal depot. Lord Lauderdale differed from the others only in thinking that the naval dock should be made well within the harbor of Esquimalt. Nothing has occurred since these conversations to affect the strategical considerations on which the above unanimous opinion was based. The construction of the Island line will make Esquimalt practically a coaling port.

The purpose of any fortifications or garrisons in the province should, therefore, be (1) To supplement the naval means of defending the chief strategic point, namely, Esquimalt and Royal Roads, until the arrival of naval reinforcements. (2) To guard probable points of raiding attack on the coast by an enemy's cruiser which, eluding our ships or during their absence, might venture into our inner waters in search of coal or to destroy property. These outlying points are two—Nanaimo and English Bay. At each of these places there should be a local, fixed battery. Probably this is what Lieutenant-Colonel Holmes means. If not, if he considers English Bay a strategic point for the concentration of land forces for other than local purposes, he is opposed to the highest naval and military authorities who have studied the subject during residence in the province. A battery at English Bay could only defend property at the terminus against a raiding sea attack; it could not protect the C. P. R. line. American troopers might gallop from Montana past Windermere, or ascend the Columbia to Farwell, and destroy rails and bridges in a few days. The latter, dominating four valleys, closing the Columbia and Eagle Pass, the only eastern ingress to Yale district, is the best point in the interior for a small battery. But raids, whether by land or sea, though vexatious, would not affect the result of any struggle for the possession of British Columbia. That would be determined by the preponderance of naval strength in the Straits of Fuca. The chief supplementary means of defence on shore should, therefore, be concentrated in this neighborhood.

Your obedient servant,
GILBERT MALCOLM SPROAT.

Eight Hours Labor.

To the Editor:—In these days of progress and reform the theory of equality and fair play for labor, either of arm or brain, is becoming universally a subject of national attention. The three great motive powers with which humanity is provided to impel and keep going this everyday existence are brains, labor and capital, each one is dependent on the other. Great accumulations of capital, however, have at times given rise to influences which deter and check the talented and the industrious from enjoying even a fair return for the employment of their talent and industry.

The time has arrived when all good and true workingmen should unite in a combined effort to secure to the wage-worker of every capacity, both mental and physical, a fair and just share of the benefits which their industry creates—not the least of these benefits is the right to have a fair proportion of his time for rest and recreation—and were the eight hour system to be universally adopted it would not only be an act of justice to the toiling masses of humanity but also one of beneficial public economy.

It is well known that in Great Britain the condition of the working classes has been much improved, although yet far from perfect, and the improvement has in a great measure been brought about by the efforts of intelligent and peaceable combinations of workingmen securing parliamentary representation, and having their grievances brought before the country. When I say combinations of workingmen I do not mean such formations as are brought under the control of a few unscrupulous and ambitious leaders whose abilities are employed to produce terrorism and forward their own pernicious measures, but such as are formed for the purpose of achieving an influence and voice in the state by lawful and intelligent means. One cannot but be struck by the action of the local house in voting, as they did a few days ago, against the nine hours labor bill, but it is my earnest hope and trust that the wage-worker will yet, by wise and just legislation, get his rights recognized in the proper quarter and secure the enjoyment of that full, just and comfortable share of the fruits of his intelligence and industry produce, and it is by unity of action, tempered by prudence and respect for the law, that he will ultimately secure those blessings which to him rightfully belong.

In this section of the British dependencies the laborer and wage-worker, both male and female, have the great Chinese evil to contend with, and before the working classes can hope to enjoy their true position, strong and decisive restrictive measures will have to be applied by the Canadian provincial governments. A British colony has always been looked upon by the son of toil as a heaven, after all else fail, to which he can emigrate, and in the new and less populated country, where his industry can be employed to better advantage, and can, by perseverance and diligence, find, if not a competence, a more certain and secure means of comfortable livelihood for himself and family. Many such have come here during the past twelve months—enduced in a great measure by the magnified representations of a few unscrupulous pamphleteers—only to find the labor market fully supplied by Chinese coolie labor. Toil.

The Poet and the Soldier.

Mr. Skirving, a Lothian farmer, immortalized in a doggerel ballad Lieut. Smith, one of Sir John Cooper's officers at the battle of Preston Pans, in which the English were routed by the Scotch rebels. The affronted soldier challenged the poet to single combat at Haddington. "Gang awa' back," was the rustic bard's answer to the bearer of the challange, "and tell Mr. Smith that I have no leisure to come to Haddington, if I think him fit to fetch him, I'll fetch him, an' if no, I'll do as he did—I'll rin awa.'"

The public are cautioned against imitations of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer, and to be suspicious of persons who recommend any other article as "just as good"; many of these they make a little more profit upon, but which have no qualities in common with the Pain-Killer. 24

FOURTH PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THIRD SESSION.

Wednesday, Feb. 25th.

The speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock.

Prayers were offered by the Rev. Mr. Stephen.

PETITION.

The petition from G. Williams and others was read, asking that the house do not pass the Sunday closing act. Received.

JAMES BAY FLATS.

Mr. Duck moved, seconded by Mr. Galbraith, that a respectful address be presented to the lieut.-governor representing that the unsanitary condition of the piece of crown land from time to time covered by tide water, situated to the east of James Bay bridge, within the limits of the city of Victoria, is a nuisance dangerous to the health of the citizens of Victoria, and requesting his honor to cause measures to be taken to abate said nuisance.

The mover thought it would not be a hard matter to show that the lands in question were crown lands under the control of the British Columbia legislature, and therefore the resolution was not an unreasonable one. He would read the decision of the privy council in a case between the province and the Dominion where the claim of the former was sustained to a piece of escheated land. Mr. Duck also referred to the boundaries of Victoria city, which stated that James Bay bridge was within the said limits; and to the decisions of eminent lawyers on the same question. As there was no doubt about the provincial authorities having jurisdiction over this land, he would ask that the land in question be handed over to the city unconditionally. They were about to inaugurate a system of sewerage, and could no doubt utilize the land. It might also be made the terminus of the island railway. He hoped, however, that if it was shown that the right was vested in the Dominion the provincial government would take such steps as would enable them to secure the land for the city of Victoria.

Hon. Mr. Davie said that he had listened with pleasure to the remarks of the previous speaker, who had shown great research on the legal question in print. However, there was little doubt that the land between high and low water mark was controled by the Dominion, and the attorney-general referred to a number of decisions in similar cases, where the Dominion was given the right of controling lands between high and low water marks. With the object of the resolution he entirely agreed, and thought that if this house represented the facts to the Dominion government for the purpose of securing the land to the city, it was all that could be asked for. He would suggest that the resolution be framed to that effect.

Mr. Galbraith thought the matter might be deferred for further discussion. There was no doubt that the lands were vested in the Dominion government. The piece of land in question was injurious to the health of the city. There were many reports spread abroad last year about the city's health, and there was little doubt that the land in question was a nuisance as at present. The consideration of the question should be deferred.

Mr. Dunsmuir said that he wished to disabuse the minds of members from the statement made by the hon. member for Victoria, Mr. Duck. He had never thought of this piece of land in connection with the railway terminus. It would no doubt be central, but the purchase of right of way to it would be too great to allow of it. It was a new idea to him.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said that he thought the resolution as at present should not pass, as it was based upon the assumption that the lands were under the control of the province. The sympathy of the whole house was with the object, and he would suggest that the hon. mover withdraw the resolution and submit one that would meet the case better. The hon. gentleman was entitled to every credit for bringing the matter before them.

Mr. Duck with the consent of the house, withdrew the resolution with the understanding that he would bring another before the house.

PROVINCIAL RIGHTS TO RESERVES.

Mr. Duck moved, seconded by Mr. Galbraith, That a respectful address be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor, representing that it is desirable that the question of jurisdiction between the Dominion and provincial governments in regard to foreshore rights in lands between high and low water marks and the various reserves of lands made prior to confederation within the province should be permanently settled, and requesting his honor to take such action as may be necessary to secure this object.

The mover said that while this might be similar to the previous resolution, the title to the reserves were in a state of doubt. There was a desire on the part of the government to transfer the Cedar Hill reserve to the city for the purposes of a park, but as they were uncertain of their power to do so, the matter should be settled.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said he thought the resolution was a very proper one to move. In so far as the reserves were concerned, he thought it was wise that the title should be settled—whether they were the lands of the Province or the Dominion—and he believed they were the property of the Province. He was glad that the resolution had been brought before them, and would only be too happy to act in the matter. He had discussed the question, while at Ottawa, with the minister of justice, but no final decision was come to.

Mr. Galbraith was pleased that the honorable leader had mentioned the fact that he had had some discussion about the question of ownership of reserves, as he was about to ask that question, for there was no mention of it in the correspondence. He himself thought that these reserves were the property of this Province.

Mr. Beaven asked the leader of the government if the Dominion government had made any claim to this reserve at Cedar Hill.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said that no formal claim had been entered for any of the reserves, but the matter was in doubt. Various legal opinions were expressed either way on the matter. The present government took the position that the reserves at Cedar Hill and at Beacon Hill were under the jurisdiction of the provincial authorities, though it was generally understood that they were under Dominion authority.

Mr. Beaven said that the late government had handed over Beacon Hill park to trustees for the city of Victoria; and he held the opinion that Cedar Hill was in precisely the same position as Beacon Hill—the property of the provincial authorities.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said he believed the reserves were the property of the province. [Hear.] However, the matter was so mixed he thought it very desirable that the resolution should pass and the ownership be finally settled.

The resolution was carried.

CHINESE RESTRICTION.

Mr. Duck moved seconded by Mr. Galbraith, That the report of the committee appointed to draft resolutions for transmission to the Dominion government in regard to the restriction of Chinese immigration be adopted.

Several members objected to the last clause of the resolution, which asked for restrictive legislation to "prevent our province from becoming a portion of the Chinese empire."

The report of the committee was adopted, the chairman to change the wording of the last clause so as to read, "to prevent our province from being overrun with Chinese."

Mr. Galbraith thought, in view of the report that had been submitted by the Chinese commission to the Dominion house, that the resolution or address should be telegraphed to Ottawa, as well as mailed, to show the authorities there that they were still urgent in their demand for Chinese restriction.

Mr. Duck moved the resolution as amended, and that a copy of it be forwarded to the speaker of the house of commons at Canada.

Mr. Helgesen thought the word "demand" should be changed to read "pray."

Several Members—We have been praying for the last ten years.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robson, the word "demand" was changed to read "request," and the resolution passed.

LAND ACT.

Hon. Mr. Smithe was granted leave to introduce an act to amend the "Land Act, 1884."

Second reading to-morrow.

NANAIMO WATERWORKS.

Mr. Raybould, in moving the second reading of the Nanaimo Waterworks Bill, stated that the water supply of Nanaimo was an exceedingly poor one, and many portions were entirely without it. The company were to bring water from the Nanaimo river, and the principles of the bill was approved of by the mayor and council and prominent citizens. It was not a company of speculators but was one composed of the people, for the purpose of supplying themselves with water.

Mr. T. Davie did not oppose the principle of the bill, but from certain clauses he did not think the powers asked for were at all modest, while the price list was very high. He noticed names of gentlemen in the bill who last year were loud in their denunciations against monopolies, and here they now asked for a very large monopoly in supplying Nanaimo with water.

Hon. Mr. Robson said he believed that, like the hon. member for Victoria, he saw one of the main movers in the bill was a man who threatened to come down last session and clean the whole legislature out. He thought the gentlemen were asking a very large monopoly. He also noticed that there was no Chinese clause in the bill, and thought that it was strange, after these gentlemen had been howling for the last two years against the Chinese, that they had made no provision against them.

Mr. Raybould—There is no objection to inserting it.

Hon. Mr. Robson—I hope not, for these gentlemen were very active in their objections last year. He would support the bill, for it was for a good purpose, but water should be as cheap as possible, and he thought the list of charges was altogether too high.

Mr. Dunsmuir said he would support the bill, though the promoters had strenuously opposed a bill of his last session; still he believed in returning good for evil. (Hear, hear.) He also thought the price list of charges was too high, and hoped that a reasonable schedule would be struck in committee.

Mr. Raybould said that with reference to power over land, the company would have to purchase the land through which the pipes were laid, and certainly they should become the sole owners. With reference to the objectionable names, the bill was for the purpose of supplying water, and it did not matter who the parties were so long as they were responsible. The rates had been submitted to the council and other citizens, and as they did not regard them as exorbitant, this house should not. There was little prospect that the scheme would prove a paying one for some time to come.

Mr. Pooley said that there was a wrong impression in Mr. Raybould's mind about remarks that had been made about certain individuals. It was merely referred to as a peculiar coincidence that gentlemen should have changed their opinions so suddenly in reference to an important political document. He would support the bill, and thought if the Nanaimo residents favored the scale of prices the house should not object.

Mr. Galbraith thought the discussion on names was out of question. The bill was for supplying water to Nanaimo, and should only be discussed on that ground. He would support the bill.

The house went into committee on the bill, Mr. Wilson in the chair.

The committee reported the bill complete with amendments.

Hon. Mr. Smithe presented the returns asked for in the Nicola land dispute, and the correspondence on the question of the same subject not being constantly kept in operation.

House adjourned at 5:30.

Thursday, Feb. 26th.

The speaker took the chair at 2:10 o'clock.

Prayers were offered by the Rev. Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Cunningham presented a petition from Robt. Dickinson and others, residents of New Westminster, relative to the maintenance of a steam ferry between New Westminster and the township of Surrey. Received.

THE NEW GAOL.

Mr. Duck moved the following resolution:—"Whereas the government have signified their intention to erect a new gaol in or near the city of Victoria, and whereas the present site is not suitably located, and the area of land too small to admit of construction of a building thereon of sufficient capacity to afford the necessary accommodation, and that it is desirable to obtain another site more thoroughly adapted for the thickly populated portion of the city. And whereas the requirements of the city in the matter of reserves and open spaces have been entirely overlooked; therefore be it resolved that a respectful address be presented to the lieut.-governor praying his honor to take into his favorable consideration the above facts, and so soon as the new gaol shall have been completed to further consider the advisability of transferring the pilot of land upon which the present gaol is situated to the city of Victoria for such municipal purposes as to the said city may seem expedient.

The hon. mover said the government was to be congratulated on its determination to erect a new gaol in the vicinity of the city of Victoria. It could not be said that the centre of the city was a desirable location for a gaol, and the land on which the gaol now stood should be made over to the city. He complimented the government on their generosity, and hoped that it might for once be recorded that it had done something in favor of the city of Victoria. (Hear, hear and laughter.)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Galbraith, who did not anticipate any opposition from the government.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said that the question that first occurred to his mind was whether the motion was in order. Was it competent for the government to convey the land asked for? Did the resolution mean this? if not it meant nothing. It only asked the government to consider the matter and that the government had already done time and again. He was willing to concede that the present site of the gaol was not a suitable one, but it was a matter for consideration whether the present gaol should be handed over to the city of Victoria for its own peculiar use. But could the government afford to do this? For the gaol property was valued at not less than $50,000. There was another question: whether, if the gaol were handed over to the city, it should not be converted into a central court-house. The hon. gentleman then proceeded to allude to the action of the government relative to the lots situate at Laurel Point and said the offer of 12 lots to the city had been made not for sale but with the idea that the city would turn the property into a public garden. The government held the offer open but the city council had refused it. There was nothing really objectionable in the resolution of the hon. gentleman because it meant nothing; but still the government was not yet prepared to say what steps it would take.

Mr. Pooley said that the building was a valuable piece of property which might well be used as a central court-house and for the registrar general and thus save much inconvenience.

Mr. Davie (Victoria) said the resolution should be postponed for further consideration. He referred to the great loss of time resulting from compelling suitors and jurors and witnesses coming from the city to the James Bay building. He thought that most of the government work could be conducted at the present city gaol if an additional story were erected. The disposition then of the present government grounds might be considered, whether the city should convert them into a park or what should be done. He was anxious to assist the hon. mover of the resolution, so that those most deeply interested in the welfare of the city of Victoria might more fully consider the question. He would move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Duck was glad that the resolution had elicited the debate, and especially the statements made by the leader of the government.

Mr. Dunsmuir said that he would come to the rescue of the lawyers, and expressed a hope that the court house would not be taken from James Bay, because it kept the legal fraternity in good health to walk across the bridge once or twice a day.

Mr. Helgesen sincerely trusted that the present gaol would be converted into a public market, in need of which the city stood greatly.

Hon. Robson said that he could not see the good of giving any expression of the house at present, as so many questions hinged on it. The hon. mover had gained his object in eliciting the present discussion and the government had anticipated the spirit of the resolution and had the matter under consideration.

Mr. Duck said he was glad to hear that the government had the matter under consideration, and with the consent of the house he would withdraw the resolution.

Withdrawn accordingly.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

Mr. Cunnigham moved that this House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider Bill No. 19, An act to incorporate the New Westminster Southern Railway company.

The motion was lost.

KOOTENAY REVENUE.

Mr. Galbraith moved for a return showing the amount collected under the several heads of revenue in the Kootenay district from 1st Jan., 1884, to 31st December, 1884.

Seconded by Mr. Duck and carried.

SUMASS DYKE.

Hon. Mr. Smithe asked leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to amend the 'Sumass Dyking Act, 1878.'"

Leave was granted; bill a first time and set down for second reading to-morrow (Friday).

Mr. T. Davie asked leave to introduce a Bill intituled "An Act to authorize the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry concerning the genuineness of an alleged transfer dated 23rd June, 1884, for certain Indians to one J. M. Spinks."

The speaker asked the hon. mover to let the motion stand over for it occurred to him that it was out of order.

Hon. Mr. Smithe—Yes, it is.

Mr. Davie.—Then I hope if it is out of order the government will take the matter in hand. Strong language has been used and accusations have been made of forgery affecting a number of people and it is unjust and cruel to let the stigma hang over gentlemen without a full investigation.

Mr. Galbraith said there was another view to take of the question and that was as to whether a select committee had the right to administer an oath.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said that he had not heard of any accusation of forgery.

Mr. Speaker.—Will the hon. gentleman withdraw the resolution?

Mr Davie. (Victoria)—No, certainly not, and I hope the government will not shuffle out of the matter.

Mr Speaker.—The motion then must stand over. It seems to me it is out of order.

The motion was then postponed.

INCOME TAX.

Mr. Duck moved for a return showing the number and names of all persons assessed on income, the source of such income and the amount assessed to each person in the electoral district of Victoria city.

Mr. Wilson said that some reason should be given for the unusual motion.

Hon. Mr. Robson was of opinion the result of the resolution would be an unnecessary exposure of the business standing of private individuals, and might have for its effect serious damage to the trade of some persons. Instead of doing this (Mr. Duck's) resolution constituted a favor the hon. gentleman on deliberation would come to the conclusion that it would do them an injury. The government had no desire for secrecy in the matter, and the books in the collector's office were open to any one who wished to find out the amount paid in any particular case.

Mr. Helgesen contended that there should be no secrecy in the matter.

Hon. Mr. Drake said that the motion was too inquisitorial altogether, and might seriously affect the business standing of men who were of good nominal credit. The object of the motion might be only to satisfy personal curiosity. But it was going too far to take any step such as would interfere with personal business and legitimate interests.

Mr. Orr said that the house of commons had passed a similar resolution in 1877.

Mr. Davie (Victoria) said that if the commons had done so it was not the duty of this house to follow a bad example. The motion was altogether too inquisitorial, and it was manifest that great injustice might be done to business men who were in good social standing and thoroughly honest. With the official return before them, vindictive persons might circulate it and represent to the public that certain merchants were not such as they had been presumed to be and hence many honorable men might be ruined.

Mr. Grant asked the leader of the government if the assessment roll was open to all applicants alike or only to members of the house.

Hon. Mr. Smithe—Oh, yes, to all alike.

Mr. Davie (Victoria)—Then if that is the case we might just as well pass this resolution.

Mr. Allen—In my district the assessment roll has always been public and posted up.

Mr. Galbraith—Yes, and it is tacked up outside the court house for inspection.

Mr. McLeese thought the return was a very necessary one. He contended that he had a right to know what persons were assessed, and to be in a position to know whether the roll was right or not.

Mr. Wilson said that the resolution was not of a desirable nature. It was calculated to expose a man's private business affairs and would be mischievous in its effect. The act, moreover, did not call for the assessor to tack up or put up the roll.

Mr. Duck said the resolution was simply moved in the interests of the public, for it was desirable to see that justice was done to all alike. It was a matter of fact that one man worth perhaps, a few thousands, paid the tax faithfully, whilst others worth ten times the amount paid nothing at all.

Mr. Theo. Davie said that since he first spoke on the subject he had changed his mind. Only a very small sum, $300 or so, had been paid by the city of Victoria, and some investigation was required.

Hon. Mr. Robson explained that the government as a government was not opposed to the fullest inquiry, nor was he personally.

On division the resolution was carried 12 to 11.

LAND ACT AMENDMENT.

Hon. Mr. Smithe moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Land Act, 1884, which was to the following effect: Section 57 of the 1884, would be repealed and instead the government would have the power to cancel any reserve, and by a notice in the gazette throw the same open for pre-emption and purchase. Further:—Notwitstanding anything in Section 31 of the Land Act, 1884, contained, town and suburban lots may be sold at such times and upon such conditions as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may in each case order, and all sales heretofore made of reserved lands shall be held to be valid. It was desirable that the Government should be in a position to realize on the lots in James Bay and whilst the upset price was now fixed for any land at $2.50 per acre, still it would be absurd to suppose that town lots should be sold at that valuation. Since last session the government had so far over-ridden the existing act by selling reserved lands before the necessary three months' notice of lifting the reserves had expired. A number of applicants were desirous of obtaining homesteads, and sooner than see these intending settlers leave the country the government had acted in the interests of the Province and had opened up the lands on the south of the north arm of the Fraser and trusted to the House to sustain the government in its deviation.

Mr. Galbraith said that he for one could not consent to the safeguard of three months' notice of lifting a reserve being done away with. It was a necessary safeguard, and without reflecting on the leader of the government, he would refer to the Fort Simpson land grab, in which connection it was well-known information had leaked out from the lands and works office. He thought that reserves at New Westminster should be sold at that city, and that bidders should not be dragged down to Victoria to purchase.

Mr. Orr contended that due notice of lifting a reserve was most desirable and hence, he could not support the bill. Experience had taught the safeguard of the three months' notice was necessary; but by this bill the reserve could be cancelled by notice in the Gazette one evening and the auction take place next day, and only a few be aware of what was about to occur.

Mr. Grant thought the government was asking too much in applying for the removal of the three months' notice. It might be cut down, but the government to save themselves from all imputation should not put themselves in a position of possible suspicion of collusion.

Hon. Mr. Robson said there was a good deal of force in the argument against the bill and he felt sure that the chief commissioner would have no objection to some time limit being placed for lifting reserves; and he was of opinion that when a reserve was about to be lifted the notice should not be confined to publication in the government Gazette but should be printed in the public newspapers. It was most desirable that the government should be beyond the suspicion of collusion. (Hear, hear).

Mr McLeese submitted that it would be wrong to take off the time limit for lifting any reserve. In the Fort Simpson case there had been suspicion cast on government officials and such might result any time if the limit were removed. He hoped that the section would be left as it is.

Mr. Dunsmuir hoped the house would not hamper the government by tying their hands for three months. The government should be given some latitude no matter what party was in power. If the government did not enjoy the confidence of the house, turn them out and then let the leader of the opposition come in, and he (Mr. Dunsmuir) would place reliance in that gentleman doing what was right. It was a sure thing that any government could only do wrong for one year.

Hon. Mr. Davie submitted that the three months' notice was too long, and he agreed with the last speaker that if the government was not to be entrusted with the management of public lands it was not to be trusted by the country at all. The limit would prevent progress of settlement, increase of basis for milling purposes, and for mining industries. In comparatively small towns the government should have full power to survey the townsite and sell the lots either at auction or otherwise.

Mr. Galbraith suggested that the bill be postponed to enable amendments to be introduced.

Mr. Semlin would ask a return of reserved lands sold to be placed before the house.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said that the bill was so simple that he could not see the necessity for delay. There was no objection to a reasonable time limit, but three months was too long for lands under the works department for that length of time. As to the reserve put on the cranberry swamp, that had been put on purely in public interests, to admit of negotiations for the improvement of utterly worthless land which had been open. He would not object to the substitution of a month's notice, but three months' was altogether too long. He thought the House should go into committee and consider the amendments and report progress.

The bill was