The Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 1890.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Fifth Parliament—Fourth Session.

FOURTH DAY.

THURSDAY, Jan. 30th, 1890.

The speaker took the chair at 2:20 p. m.

Prayers by Rev. Arthur Beanlands.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Duck rose to correct a portion of THE COLONIST's report of Tuesday's proceedings of the House. On moving the adjornment of the debate he was quoted as saying that he would not support the amendment as it was utter nonsense. What he had said was that he would not support the original resolution; as it would be utter nonsense to ask for a return to the House of an order-in-council that had never had an existence.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Thomson laid before the House a petition from the settlers and property owners of Gabriola Island, asking for a grant of money for the construction of a road.

Mr. Orr presented a petition from the Vancouver Street Railway Company, and one from the Vancouver Illuminating Co., in regard to their amalgamation as the Vancouver Electric Lighting and Street Railway Co.

READING PETITIONS.

The petition of D. Oppenheimer and other residents of Vancouver asking for representation in proportion to their city's population, wealth and importance; and quoting the registered voters of Vancouver at 1808, with the expression of belief that the list would number 3,000 before July, was received and read.

It was moved that the petition be received and printed. A long discussion ensued over the question of printing all names on the petition, and it was finally decided to print only the introductory ten names.

BROKEN BRIDGES.

Mr. Orr moved "That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that a copy of the plans, specifications, and all orders-in-council and other papers in any way relating to the construction of the bridge from the Mainland to Sea Island, and from Sea Island to Lulu Island, across the North Arm of the Fraser River, in New Westminster District, together with a statement of all moneys paid on account of the same, and all moneys due on account of the said bridges. Also the name of the person acting for the Government as inspector of the said works, together with his report thereon, and the number of times the said inspector visited the said works during construction, and the amount paid for said inspection."

He moved this resolution, he said, on account of the very unsatisfactory manner in which the bridge had been constructed. A large amount of money had been spent for the bridge between Lulu and Sea Islands, and it had been so poorly built that it had recently been carried away by a slight pressure of ice. Either the government were blamable in not preparing proper specifications or the contractors did not perform their work in accordance with the specifications.

Mr. Ladner seconded the resolution, not with pleasure, he said. He lamented the fact that the bridge had not been what it should, and hoped to see the blame placed where it belonged.

Hon. Mr. Vernon thought that all must regret when an important public work, such as the one referred to, was injured. Still he thought the mover of the resolution might have exhibited better taste than he had in referring to the matter, and refrained from making statements that could not be substantiated. He did not think that honorable member knew anything about bridge building, despite the fact that he had produced a few spikes in his attempts to convince the House that the bridge was improperly constructed. He (Hon. Mr. Vernon) could assure the House that the government were clear of any blame, and the specifications had been complied with. Accidents would occur in any country, no matter how great precautions were taken, and he thought it would be found that no blame could be attached to the department over which he had the honor to be the responsible head. His only objection to the resolution was that it did not go far enough. He wanted a closer enquiry into the matter than the resolution could possibly provide for. (Applause.)

Mr. Cunningham spoke of the neglect of the mover of the resolution to provide for a thorough enquiry into the cause of the bridge breaking. A select committee should have been asked for, and, as he believed in doing things in a business way, he moved that a select special committee, consisting of Messrs. Haslam, Croft, Orr, Ladner and the mover, be appointed to enquire into the cause of the carrying away of broken spans, with power to call for all persons, documents and other evidence.

Mr. Croft seconded the amendment, and referred to the complete specifications prepared by the government for the broken bridge, and the unusually high water and heavy ice which caused the spans to be carried away.

Mr. Duck thought that the amendment by itself would not answer the purpose desired; he advised its passage in addition to the original resolution.

Mr. Grant explained the necessity of the House procuring the evidence in this matter which was asked for in the resolution.

Hon. Mr. Davie thought the amendment proposed fully covered the ground. The committee suggested had power to call for all the documents and parties referred to by the mover in the original resolution. The only way to get at the desired information was by having a special committee appointed; the amendment could be added to the resolution if the House desired it, but the amendment alone fully covered the ground.

Mr. Ladner spoke at considerable length upon the amendment, and stated that the piles in the bridge were not properly driven, and other portions of the bridge were faulty in their construction.

Mr. Cunningham's amendment was altered to enable the committee to enquire into all particulars in regard to the construction as well as the carrying away of the North Arm bridge; and was accepted as satisfactory by Mr. Orr, who said that he knew a great deal about bridge building, and he declared that the specifications had not been complied with in the construction of the bridge. When the enquiry into the matter was left in the hands of a committee composed of five, with three government supporters among them, it was an easy matter for the government to secure a report which fully shielded them.

Hon. Mr. Robson censured the opposition for the insult they had offered to twenty-one-twenty-sevenths of the House, in inferring that an unfair report would be presented to favor the government. The opposition had nothing to justify them in claiming a monopoly of the honesty of the House. He fully endorsed the passage of the amendment, the only business-like method of dealing with the question, and showed how the opposition in their remarks had explained more clearly the necessity for such action as was suggested in the amendment.

Mr. Semlin thought the original motion fully covered the ground.

Hon. Mr. Beaven wished to see inserted the words "and all orders in council."

Hon. Mr. Davie had no objection to the insertion of the words; but as the premier had said that there were no orders in council, he advised Mr. Beaven to add the words "if any."

The words were inserted and the amended resolution passed unanimously.

A RETURN ASKED FOR.

Mr. Grant moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Beaven: "That an order of the House be granted for a return to this House showing the amounts of income and personal tax in each of the cities of Victoria, Nanaimo, New Westminster and Vancouver, as shown by the assessment rolls for 1890." Carried.

JUVENILE REFORMATORY.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act for establishing a Juvenile Reformatory." Leave granted. Bill read a first time. Second reading on Monday.

COUNTY COURTS.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act to amend the 'County Courts Act.'" Leave granted. Bill read a first time. Second reading Friday.

NEW WESTMINSTER ACT.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act to amend the 'New Westminster Act, 1886.'" Leave granted. Bill read a first time. Second reading Friday.

LAND REGISTRY ACT.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act to amend the 'Land Registry Act.'" Leave granted. Bill read a first time. Second reading Friday.

TO AMEND THE LICENSES ACT.

Hon. Mr. Davie asked leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act to amend the 'Licenses Act.'" Leave granted. Bill read a first time. Second reading on Monday.

ELECTION REGULATIONS.

Mr. Smith asked leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act to amend the 'Election Regulations Amendment Act, 1889.'" Leave granted. Bill read a first time. Second reading Tuesday.

MR. ORR'S RESOLUTION.

Mr. Orr moved, "That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to cause to be placed before the House, at once, the measure proposed as an amendment to the Constitution Act, so that the policy of the government on the subject may be made known."

The mover briefly referred to the importance of the measure alluded to in his resolution, and expressed the belief that it should be submitted to the House immediately. Increased representation, and not jerrymandering, was what was wanted.

Hon. Mr. Robson rose to reply. Said he: In dealing with the resolution before the House, one experiences no little difficulty in giving the hon. member for Victoria City credit for sincerity. Were he a young, verdant member of the legislature one might possibly think him in earnest; but seeing he is amongst the oldest and most experienced parliamentarians in the province, one can hardly attribute his action to verdancy. One might be tempted to attribute it to a desire to pose as the champion, the guardian of the rights and interests of the mainland. But if that is his purpose he exhibits a wonderful lack of appreciation of the intelligence and common sense of the people on the mainland; for the average elector will have no difficulty in seeing through the transparent absurdity, the utter childishness of the trick. This is the second attempt that hon. gentleman has made before the session is a week old to extort from the government an important cabinet secret; but it is as well that I should tell him once for all that the government will bring down the measure when they are ready. The hon. gentleman should surely understand that he, as a member of the opposition, has little claim to be the first to be taken into the confidence of the government. When he came into this House some seven years ago he sat on this side and voted with the government; but when his aspirations to occupy a seat in the cabinet to fill the Speaker's chair was blighted, he crossed to the other side of the House, and, consequently, could no longer be admitted to the government caucus, and if he now realized that his usefulness to his constituents had been impaired by that act of folly, the fault was entirely his own. The fundamental principle of responsible government consists in administering the affairs of the country according to the well-understood wishes of the people; and, in order the better to understand their wishes, it was customary and proper that ministers should have free and confidential discussion with such of the people's representatives, and that was done in what is commonly known as "caucus;" and if some hon. members were so unfortunate as to place themselves in a position which necessarily excluded them from the government caucus, thereby debarring themselves from the obvious advantages of that secret council, so much the worse for themselves and their constituents. Fortunately for the province, there are only two constituencies placed under this disadvantage. In the case of all the others their delegations had, in whole or in part, the advantage of discussing matters in caucus. The hon. leader of the opposition had, on previous occasions, attempted to condemn the caucus as wrong and unconstitutional; but everyone at all versed in the matter knew the caucus to be a part of the machinery of responsible government. Wherever that form of government obtained the caucus would be found, and no one knew it better than the leader of the opposition. He (Mr. Robson) expressed surprise that the hon. mover of the resolution had not learned better from his leader, who had so much to say about revealing cabinet secrets. He could inform the hon. member that the details of the measure were still of the most of a cabinet secret, and that they would not be revealed at the beck and call of any member of the opposition. He would further ease the hon. gentleman's mind by assuring him that in the matter of representation and redistribution, the interests of the mainland were perfectly safe in the hands of the government and their supporters. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Beaven said that the procedure taken in this case by Mr. Orr's resolution was the same as that adopted anywhere else in the world in dealing with a government without a policy, and where the House was possessed of independence. When a government had no backbone and no stamina, a resolution of the character of the one submitted was necessary. It was obvious that the information asked for should be brought down at once. In all the twenty years that he had filled a seat in parliament he had never seen so disgraceful an exhibition as that made by the provincial secretary while he was on his feet in opposition to the present resolution. He had said practically that a member of the legislature, unless he were a follower and supporter of the government, had no voice in the House.

Hon. Mr. Robson emphatically denied having made such a statement.

Hon. Mr. Beaven, continuing, said that the hon. provincial secretary had announced that the policy of this government was formed in caucus. Nothing like this had ever been heard before by a public who were supposed to enjoy the benefits of responsible government. It was the principle of responsible government that all the legislators should meet and discuss the public business on the floor of the House,—no hole-and-corner business. It was the duty of the executive to frame the legislation and present it to the House, when measures were required. The subject of representation and the re-distribution of seats had long been discussed, and it was in the executive, not in caucus, that the policy of the government dealing with the matter should have been prepared. Caucuses were not usual when matters of government policy were under consideration, but they might be held to discuss detail. No government in Canada or in England framed its policy by calling its followers into a private room and accepting their dictation in the matter. A more have-faced admission of disgraceful procedure than that made by the hon. provincial secretary he had never heard; and he never expected to. The resolution was a good one; the country had a right to know what were the contents of the measure. It was the duty of the leader of the government on addressing meetings to have expounded to the public his policy on this measure. The hon. provincial secretary had said that Opposition members were not out out in the expenditure. Look at the member for Cassiar. His district was neglected because he happened to be a firm supporter of the Opposition.

A member—He got even more than he asked.

Hon. Mr. Beaven hoped that the remarks of the hon. provincial secretary would be recorded by the press, and remain to stand as his own condemnation. In THE COLONIST of this (Thursday) morning an editorial appeared which had very evidently been written by him (Hon. Mr. Robson); in which effort was made to condemn the hon. gentleman from New Westminster. Of course the hon. provincial secretary had a perfect right to write editorials if he wanted to, but it should be remembered that all members of the House had equal rights.

Hon. Mr. Robson, in justice to himself, rose to say that while he had a perfect right to do so if he wished and the editorial referred to would have been no discredit, still he did not write it. Neither did he suggest it, or know anything of it until he saw it in print.

Hon. Mr. Beaven remarked that he had used the language of it very freely in his speech.

Hon. Mr. Davie agreed with the leader of the opposition that the hon. the provincial secretary by his speech just delivered had given an exhibition, but so had the leader of the opposition also; the one was an exhibition of candour, the other was an exhibition of hypocrisy. In saying that before bringing down a measure, such as that under consideration, the government called a caucus of their supporters, and discussed the matter with them, the hon. provincial secretary had candidly stated, what everyone knew to be the plan adopted by every government, and when the leader of the opposition, who had led, and had been a member of previous governments, expressed holy horror at such a course, he showed himself to be a whised sepulchre. He (Mr. Davie) would like to know what government would last a session which did not consult its supporters and ascertain from them what were the wishes and interests of the constituents. Mr. Beaven, when leading a government, called caucuses, but now tried to hide that fact. Mr. Robson, on the other side of the House, knew that every one knew to be the case, and made no attempt at concealment. In the first part of his speech the leader of the opposition had inferred that such a thing as a caucus was never resorted to but towards the end he appeared to recognize that such a prevarication was too transparent, and he qualified what he had stated before, by saying that caucuses were all right, but governments must discuss with their supporters in caucuses not questions of policy, but only matters of detail arising out of the policy formulated by the government; as if there were any laws or rules governing what might or might not be considered in caucus, once you admitted it to be regular to hold such a gathering. But taking him on his own word, what was it that the hon. provincial secretary had said the government was going to discuss with its supporters, but matters of detail? The policy of redistribution had already been announced in the Governor's speech, how that redistribution should be arranged was the detail of the scheme, which, whilst at first denouncing the government for discussing privately with their supporters, the leader of the opposition in the last part of his remarks admitted was quite regular. Why did not the leader of the opposition act straightforwardly, and not try to hold himself up as an example of virtue, when he knew that if in their place he would do precisely as the government were doing, and as he had done before them? And is the leader of the opposition so simple,—as to suppose that the public cannot see through him. As remarked the other day, if they are not fools, and can understand a question of this kind perfectly. He (Mr. Beaven) blamed the premier to-day because he did not state the details of the government policy upon this measure at the Kamloops public meeting, but he blows hot and cold with the same breath, for it was only two days ago that he arraigned him (Mr. Davie) for having violated executive secrecy, because he had at a public meeting disclosed the details of something resolved upon by the government ten years ago. Why could not the hon. leader of the opposition be consistent and so gain sufficient confidence from the people to give him a respectable following in the House? As for the resolution itself, he did not blame the mover for introducing it. He was an opposition member, and of course wanted to worry the government if he could, but the government was entitled to fix its own time for bringing down its measures, and would introduce this bill at the proper period.

Mr. Grant was of the opinion that if the government was conducted as the hon. provincial secretary said, the policy being such as the followers of the government only desired, there was no chance of getting the government out of all. Responsible government in British Columbia appeared to consist of the government moulding their policy to suit their followers, so that both might retain perpetual power. The government had no policy, and, he said, Hon. Mr. Robson had by his own words confirmed the charge laid against him by the opposition, of buying the different constituencies with their own money. He was astonished at the exhibition of audacity given by the members of the government to men who were supposed to be free and independent legislators.

Hon. Mr. Pooley had, he said, a little to say on the question of constitutionality. The leader of the government had been brought to book by the leader of the opposition and the same hon. member for Cassiar. These hon. gentlemen had said that the government had no policy; and then that if they (the government) had any policy the House should have been informed of what it was. In the speech, the House had been informed that the question of redistribution would be made a matter of government policy. The principle having been thus announced further particulars were afterwards communicated in caucus to the gentlemen in accordance with the government's views. Of course members of the opposition could not attend such a caucus. What more straightforward statement could be asked for than that made by the hon. leader of the government? The hon. leader of the opposition had said that every member should be accorded equal privileges. So they were. When any measure came before the House the right to discuss it was universal. It was to see that the rights of all were respected, and every member was allowed to freely express himself, that Mr. Speaker was placed in his chair to impartially preserve order and administer the rules of debate. The hon. member for Cassiar had intimated that the only independent members in the House were those who filled the opposition benches. Where their superior independence was shown it was not easy to see. They voted always against the government, no matter what the measure might be. He had never known the hon. member for Cassiar to cast a vote with the government.

A member—He's shirked a vote though.

Hon. Mr. Pooley, continuing, said that he had nothing to say about the votes that were shirked. It was unfair to suggest that because members of the House considered it best to vote with the government; that they were lacking in independence. All had equal rights, both to proclaim their views on the floor of the House and to cast their votes as they saw fit. Concluding, the hon. President of the Council remarked that this was the first time that he had taken the opportunity to address the House during the present session; the first since his long period of rest in the Speaker's chair. He thanked the House for the kind manner in which they had listened to what he had to say, and sat down amid prolonged applause.

Mr. Semlin had understood the Premier to say that the policy of the government in regard to the redistribution bill was not yet decided upon. At Kamloops, two months ago, the Premier had stated that the measure was under consideration. If the five composing the executive committee could not agree upon a policy in two months it was difficult to imagine how long it would take the 21 unsworn executive councillors in the caucus to agree. The government, he imagined, wished to delay the matter so that at the end of the session it might remain unsettled; and they could then go to their constituents at the general election with a better chance for re-election. If the redistribution took place the Island would have to make some concessions to the Mainland which he did not think they were yet prepared to make. It was not responsible government for party supporters to assemble in caucus and formulate the government policy. It was a common belief that unless supporters of the government were elected, the districts to be represented would get a meagre share of the expenditure. When the recent election took place in Lillooet district the government candidate himself had worked upon this general belief; and had also intimated that unless a government supporter was elected the district might expect to be disfranchised on the redistribution of seats. It was on account of this opinion of the electors that vengeance would be visited on them by the government if they failed in their support of it, that the government secured their following, not from any love the people had for the government. It was due to the people that the measure referred to in the resolution should be laid before the House at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Smith agreed with the remarks made by the leader of the Government on the best methods of carrying on the government. If the majority of the House approved of the policy adopted, it constituted certainly responsible government. The government could not frame a policy that would meet the requirements of every district unless they consulted with the representatives of the districts. He feared that the redistribution bill when submitted to the House would prove to be a measure that would meet with the approval of the House. With reference to election matters touched upon by the hon. member for Yale. Much had been said during the progress of the campaign; and in reference to the re-distribution bill he had advised the electors to send to parliament a man who would have a right to a voice in the government caucuses. He did not make the remark attributed to him in regard to the disfranchisement of the district were an opposition man returned. (Applause.)

Mr. Cunningham asserted that the position assumed by the opposition on this question was illogical. Expectally illogical in his remarks was the hon. member for Cassiar. The opposition wanted the government to bring down an incomplete measure, and so force it down the members' throats. It was inexplicable, he asked, how any government could, by the electors, by granting a fair share of expenditure only to the districts who returned government supporters. He instanced the case of New Westminster, which had until very recently been represented in the House by a strong opposition member; but which had prospered wonderfully, thanks in a great measure to the legislation of the present government. The bonds of the city were now sold at 103½, while the city was advancing every day. (Applause.)

Mr. Duck had listened patiently, he said, to the remarks of the hon. members who had preceded him; and about the only thing he had heard from the opposition was the statement that if the government pursued their present policy they could never be put out of power. He (Mr. Duck) was elected to serve the interests of his constituents, and he was striving to do so on the floor of the House or in caucus.

Mr. Orr closed the debate with a very brief speech. The measure referred to should be submitted at once; at least before the estimates were brought down.

On a division the resolution was rejected on the following vote: Yeas—Beaven, Grant, Ladner, Orr and Semlin. Nay—Anderson, Baker, Cowan, Croft, Cunningham, Davie, Duck, Haslam, Martin, Mason, Rickards, Robson, Smith, Turner and Vernon.

The House then rose at the usual hour.

FIFTH DAY.

FRIDAY, Jan. 31.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:15 p. m.

Prayers were offered by Rev. A. Beanlands.

THE PREMIER SPEAKS.

Hon. Mr. Robson, before the business of the day was taken up, wished to take the opportunity, with the indulgence of the House, of briefly addressing them. Everyone was aware that since the last session of the House, it had lost by death two of the most prominent figures—the leader of the government and the president of the executive council. With regard to the president of the council he thought that it had been generally recognized throughout the country that his removal might well be regarded as a public calamity. He had certainly been a man who had made surprises of a large character, prominently identified with every movement of magnitude involving the investment of capital, having for its object the development of British Columbia. As a member of the government, as president of the executive, his counsel had always been of great value; his clear headedness, his practical common sense fixing the point desirable and useful in the deliberations of the cabinet. Those remaining in the government of which he had been a member keenly felt his loss. As an enterprising citizen, as a benefactor of the country, as a public man and as a minister of the crown, he gained the confidence of all classes. He made his usefulness felt throughout the entire province to such an extent that his removal could not but be regarded as a public calamity. Speaking of the late leader of the government, whose loss words could not express, he felt that, as a public man and the leader of the government, he had won the confidence of the cabinet and of every supporter of the government, and the respect and esteem of the opposition. Words of unqualified praise of his public and private character had been freely spoken by both his friends and his political opponents. As the colleague of the late attorney-general he could bear testimony to the extraordinary sense of duty which actuated his every movement. He was always anxious to do his full duty and do it impartially in the best interest of the country. During the long days of his last illness, of which he (Hon. Mr. Robson) could speak more particularly, he had exhibited to the last that conscientious sense of responsibility which led him to devote his mind and energies to the discharge of his public duties. One of his last acts was the preparation of an able and voluminous report for the government, which was completed so near to the time of his dissolution that before the report had been properly engrossed death had taken from him the power to attach his signature. He (Hon. Mr. Robson) mentioned this incident simply to give hon. gentlemen of the House an idea of the conscientious sense of duty that the late attorney-general had as long as God gave him life. It was very little to say that the House deeply regretted the loss to the country by the decease of that hon. gentleman. When death had created a breach in the cabinet, it devolved upon someone to form a new government. He (Hon. Mr. Robson) had been called upon to perform this duty. He had submitted the names of the Hon. Mr. Vernon and the Hon. Mr. Turner for the positions they held in the late government, positions they held with credit to themselves and with satisfaction to the cabinet, the House and the country. Mr. Davie and Mr. Pooley he had named to fill the blanks created. Mr. Pooley, the late Speaker, possessed to an unusual degree the respect and confidence of both sides of the House and the country. Mr. Davie's name had been submitted for attorney-general. It was according to the fitness of things that the mantle of his late lamented brother should fall upon him, and he thought it would be the verdict of the country that Mr. Davie was the right man in the right place. With regard to the policy of the government, it might be stated that it did not widely differ from that of the last administration. There were some slight differences, and these had been mentioned in the speech from the throne. For instance, it was the intention of the Government to make extensive explorations and surveys with a view to utilizing the volume of immigration that was being attracted to the province, and which had for years been drifting in a great part across the boundary, chiefly because accurate knowledge of this country could not be provided in the way of maps of townships, field notes, etc. There were other matters, for instance, the proposition to readjust the constituencies in the province and increase more or less the representation in the House. This measure was rendered necessary, not so much by the lapse of time as by the growth of the province and the increase in population and in the interest felt in the development of the industries of the country. Of course he was not in a position now to state the details of the measure, which would be seen when it was laid before the House. Another matter of the present Government's policy was the liberalizing of the Legal Professions' Act, as it was not considered advisable in the interest of the province to hedge that profession about with a Chinese wall. Still another point of government policy was their intention of inaugurating a live railway era. Up to the present railway development had gone little beyond the granting of franchises and locking up of land for the season of the different enterprises. It would the policy of the government to legislate so as to induce active construction. Very few matters of greater importance would come before the House than the question of promoting in some wise manner the building of railways, so essential in developing the wonderful resources of this grand province. (Applause.)

PETITIONS.

The petition of the Vancouver Street Railway Company and the Vancouver Electric Light Company, re. amalgamation, was read and referred to the select standing committee on private bills.

Mr. Ladner rose to a point of order the petition of certain settlers resident on Gabriola Island, as it asked for an appropriation.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Ladner rose to a question of privilege. A committee had been appointed, he understood, to enquire into the matter of the North Arm bridges. He wished to give the government credit for placing on the committee thoroughly competent men; but he thought this matter could be delegated to a committee represented in the House by a strong opposition member; but which had prospered wonderfully, thanks in a great measure to the legislation of the present government. The bonds of the city were now sold at 103½, while the city was advancing every day. (Applause.)

Mr. Duck had listened patiently, he said, to the remarks of the hon. members who had preceded him; and about the only thing he had heard from the opposition was the statement that if the government pursued their present policy they could never be put out of power. He (Mr. Duck) was elected to serve the interests of his constituents, and he was striving to do so on the floor of the House or in caucus.

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political machine, and reduce the teachers to the position simply of their tools; and any fair-minded person could see that the present government had always shown themselves the friends of the teacher, on coming into power restoring their rights and privileges, and then surrounding them with every safeguard that would secure their possession of those rights.—(Applause).

Mr. Grant and Mr. Semlin voiced their views of the education department generally.

On a vote being taken, Mr. Martin's amendment was adopted.

A RETURN.

Hon. Mr. Davie presented the sixteenth annual report of the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

On motion the House adjourned until Tuesday next.

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, JAN. 31.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Libels in Plenty.

Mr. J. A. Halliday, principal of the boys' department, Central school, has entered an action for libel against the Times, claiming $5,000 damages.

Northward Bound.

The steamer City of Puebla, which sailed for Victoria from San Francisco yesterday, carries the following passengers for this port: W. T. Anderson, W. Warmala, J. Hunter, E. L. Kelly, L. Lockers, T. Harper, B. Billing, T. Toehy and T. Heamans.

Freight and Trade Notes.

The Islander last evening brought down two carloads of flour, one of flour and feed, one of condensed milk and 7,199 feet of lumber.

The Olympian brought over one carload of general merchandise and one of mutton last evening.

Both Remanded.

Jennie Rose charged with being drunk did not appear in the police court yesterday and his honor adjourned the case until to-day.

P. Brown, charged with having smuggled goods in his possession, was also remanded until to-day, the counsel not being present.

Still the Mollie Adams.

Owing to the fact that certain formalities have not been complied with, the application to have the name of the sealing schooner Mollie Adams changed to E. B. Marvin cannot be granted. The trim little schooner floats her new flag but she will still have to sink or swim under the old name.

Badly Damaged.

As the steamer Alert was proceeding from Nanaimo to Victoria, an engine-room lamp, which had been placed in the pilot house, exploded and badly damaged the wheel. The wheel and pilot house were completely destroyed and the fore part of the steamer badly scorched. Capt. Clarke rigged a steering gear of his own design, and arrived in Nanaimo yesterday with a pretty black looking boat.

The Seattle Desperado.

David Dennee, who shot Richard Rickards while escaping from a gambling house which he had robbed in Seattle, has been arrested. No less than ten policemen surrounded the house where Dennee was hiding, and after considerable trouble the young man was secured. He proves to be a beardless young man of 22 years, and does not look the desperate villain he has shown himself to be. Rickards, who was shot twice by Dennee, has had the wounded arm amputated, and it is thought that he will recover.

Far Off India.

To those who were present in the Victoria West school last evening the entertainment provided proved a most enjoyable treat. Mr. Charles Kent was hard and very recently been in office twice, while Miss Twiss and Mr. E. Langley contributed pleasing instrumental numbers. The body of the entertainment consisted of a graphic and most instructive lecture on Indian life and customs by Rev. Mr. Ellison, whose long residence in the great empire abundantly fitted him to talk of it intelligently and in a manner capable of holding the attention of his interested audience to the close.

BATTERED BY THE SEA.

The Sealing Schooner Triumph has a Rough Experience on the Coast.

The sealing schooner Triumph, Capt. C. M. Cox, arrived in the harbor about 1 o'clock yesterday with her bowsprit, foremast and foretop mast missing.

The schooner, which is owned by E. B. Marvin & Co. and her master, left San Francisco on the 16th inst., sailed south for about 250 miles and then commenced sealing along the coast, or at least trying to seal. The weather was something terrific, she having encountered S. and S.W. gales ever since she left San Francisco, the boats being able to go out only twice, when 52 seals were taken. On the 26th inst., while she was just north of Cape Mendocino, the boats were stowed and the captain kept standing off and on, hoping that the weather would clear, as they were in a herd of sleepers, but as the wind showed no signs of abating the schooner was hove right out. On the 27th, about 9:20 a. m., a heavy sea struck the vessel and carried away her bowsprit, which was immediately followed by her foremast and foretop mast, which swept off, leaving a complete sommersault and clearing the schooner, not even scratching the paint. All the rigging had been cut before hand, which saved the vessel from being a total wreck.

Jury sails were immediately rigged, and at 3 p. m. on Monday, the 27th, the schooner started for Victoria, which point was reached as above stated at 1 o'clock yesterday, the trip of 600 miles having been made in 69 hours. This is Capt. Cox's first command, and he was receiving the congratulations of seafaring men yesterday for the able manner in which he had conducted his first report. All hands worked hard and are consequently pretty well played out.

A survey of the damages has already been made. Repairs will be proceeded with immediately and she will leave shortly to try her luck again.

The Triumph is one of the fastest sailers in the fleet, and her captain speaks in the highest terms of the way she behaved.

LITTLE LOCALS.

L. Hall, L. D. S., has been appointed a member of the dentists' board of examiners.

Prices of property on Government street near site new hotel have been advanced considerably.

Chas. Hayward, J. P., has been appointed selector of jurors for Victoria district, vice J. H. Todd, J. P.

The unfortunate woman, Miss O'Reilly, who has been confined in the city lock-up since Monday on a charge of insanity, was taken home by her friends yesterday.

A Chinaman was discovered imprisoned in the wheel-house of the North Pacific at Tacoma the other day, and was returned to Victoria, being charged full fare each way.

Rumor has put a sensational story in circulation in regard to the flight of a certain married woman from this city in company with an unmarried male companion. The pair are said to be in San Francisco and developments are expected in the divorce court.

MARINE.

Steamer City of Puebla left San Francisco yesterday for this port.

Steamers Daisy and Lottie arrived from Nanaimo yesterday morning having encountered heavy weather.

Arrived—At New York: Edam, from Amsterdam; Ethiopia, Glasgow and Bothnia, Liverpool. At Philadelphia—Prussian from Glasgow.

Sailed—From San Francisco: City of Puebla, for Victoria, Wellington, for Nanaimo.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, FEB. 1.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

On the Reef.

As the steamer Falcon was going out of the harbor yesterday afternoon she ran on the reef past Hospital point. She went on at about 2.30, and about 4 o'clock had keeled over on her side. It was expected that she would come off at high tide.

Handed Over.

The two deserters from the Canadian mounted infantry at Winnipeg, who gave themselves up to the police a few days ago, have been handed over to the "O" battery authorities, who will take care of them until orders arrive from Ottawa.

Vital Statistics.

The government record of deaths for December shows that sixteen died in Victoria during that month. In December, 1888, there were twenty-one deaths. During the past month there were thirty-nine deaths, the great increase being due to la grippe and the prevalence of lung troubles.

Still Necessary.

The E. & N. Railway has not yet got clear of snow. The plows still have to go up before the train to clear the track, especially on the summit, where the snow is about three feet deep. A gang of men are also kept at work doing everything to prevent the stoppage of traffic.

Music at Ladners.

A brass band is being organized at Ladners. The instruments have arrived and the services of Mr. W. F. Harris, a good instructor, have been obtained. Practices have commenced, and a band concert will be given as soon as the organization is in good playing order.

In the Estimates.

In the estimates laid before the Dominion House on Thursday was the usual appropriation for the Victoria-San Francisco steamer service, and also a vote of $88,000 for the maintenance of the Indians of British Columbia. The $7,500 voted last year for steam service between Victoria and New Westminster has been dropped.

Australian Wool.

The first consignment of Australian wool ever brought to British Columbia for manufacturing purposes, has arrived at Victoria for the Westminster woolen mills, and will be taken to that city by the first boat. This is only a sample order, but if it proves satisfactory, and produces the required quality of goods, a large quantity will be imported.

Meeting at North Arm.

The residents of North Arm will hold a public meeting in the school house this evening to discuss matters of interest to the locality, amongst the rest the opening of the North Arm road to Westminster and Vancouver, and the cutting down of the hill between the river and Vancouver. The question of forming a new municipality will probably be discussed.

Customs Returns.

Following are the customs returns at this port for the month of January, 1890:—

Duties	$45,291 29
Warehouse fees	300 00
Fines and seizures	698.00
Steamboat inspection	174 08
Sick M. fund	254 42
Unemploym. Rev.	154.50
Storage	25.50
Total	$46,652 81

Badly Burned.

James Devlin, a miner engaged at the Southfield mine, was badly burned on Thursday by an explosion of gas. He and his partner had holed into the old workings, and he had entered with a light to prospect. The gas was fired, and a noiseless explosion followed, leaving him to the general and very painful burning and bruising him. Dr. Frieger is attending the injured man.

Chinamen Got the Grip.

Nanaimo Free Press: Quite a Chinaman at Chinatown was nearly all down with the grippe and unable to work. When asked "What's the matter, John?" the celestials reply, "Heap no sabbee wha for all Chinamen catchee sick, allee like, allee same time. Wha for. Heap bad, Chinee doctor no sabbee all Chinamen sick. He say heap bad job, allee same, wha for melican man give Chinamen heapee bad heads, allee time sneze-e-e-ey.

Steamer Point Arena.

Seattle Times: The steamer Point Arena, which was seized by her owners, Iverson, Johnson & Co., from Capt. Beckwith for back dues, has been lying at Port Townsend for the past week. She will run in place of the Ferndale for one trip and then go in the jobbing business on the Sound until a route has been selected for her. Her headquarters will be at Carkeek & Nichol's wharf, and Messrs. A. R. Main and I. O. V. Seeley have been appointed her agents.

More Improvements.

Mr. L. Buttress Trimen is calling for tenders for the erection of a two-story building with basement at the corner of Johnson street and Oriental alley, for Mr. Henry Saunders, the well-known grocer. It will be forty feet front, with a depth of ninety-five feet.

Work has been commenced on Spencer's addition to the Arcade on Broad street.

The tenants are moving out of the stores on Government street below the Bank of B. C., which will be replaced by a brick building for Mr. Jos. Sommers.

Seattle Bricklayers' Strike.

The majority of the striking bricklayers at Seattle have returned to work, and although the contractors and builders are paying the price demanded by the union, they are doing so under protest, and only for the purpose of finishing the buildings now in course of construction. The contractors say that while they have been compelled to finish their work, it is doubtful if the bricklayers will profit by it, as they claim that a large number of brick buildings now being planned will not be erected until the old schedule is again in force. The strikers ask $5 per day for eight hours' work.

At Port Angeles.

Port Townsend Leader: Mr. Norman R. Smith, of Port Angeles, is in the city and remarked last evening that seven sailing vessels and five steamers were anchored in Port Angeles harbor Wednesday, giving that place a really metropolitan appearance. The steamer Michigan was storm bound at Neah Bay from Sunday till Tuesday, and then with great difficulty put back to Port Angeles, where she found safe anchorage. The tug Pioneer was also at Port Angeles, and Capt. Grant, of that vessel, says the sea has been running higher the past few days on Puget Sound than he has ever known it before—or at least for several years.

Victoria Rifle Association.

A well attended meeting of the above association was held in