

Provincial Legislature

Legislative Assembly, Thirty-eighth day, Tuesday, April 30, 1901.

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

Rev. Mr. Sweet offered prayer.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Turner the house went into committee of supply.

Mr. Hunter in the chair.

Statement of hospitals and charities, was taken up, the total vote being \$87,300.

Mr. E. C. Smith asked a reconsideration of Vote 25.

He urged that the salary of the mining recorder of Fort Steele district be increased from \$80 to \$100 per month.

In answer to Mr. Curtis, Hon. Mr. Prentice said the grants to hospitals were based on a per capita for the larger hospitals and a round sum, calculated on the basis of the institution, to the smaller ones.

The items of the vote were passed without opposition.

Mr. Fulton asked an increase to the resident physician at Nicola.

Hon. Mr. Prentice said he could not consent to the increase.

While the item \$15,000, assistance towards building hospitals, was under consideration, Mr. Curtis made a plea for additional assistance to the Sisters' Hospital at Rossland, paying a hospital to the management of that institution.

Mr. McInnes hoped a sum would be placed in the supplementary estimates to aid the construction of an isolation hospital near Nanaimo.

Mr. Gardner was informed that the aid to the Vancouver general hospital would be the same as last year.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. The sum of \$110,000 was voted for administration of justice, other than salaries.

EDUCATION. Statement H, \$869,037 for education, was the next vote.

Mr. Curtis criticized the syllabus of the Normal School, which he declared was not designed to provide a special training for teachers.

Hon. Mr. Prentice said he had read the syllabus and was satisfied with it.

Mr. Kidd accused Mr. Curtis of inconsistency. His argument did not agree with what he had advanced in discussing the school bill.

A sum of \$15,000 was voted for charges on buildings and travelling expenses of officers on duty.

REVENUE SERVICES. Commissions, courts of appeal, travelling expenses, miscellaneous expenditure in collecting revenue were included in a vote of \$13,000.

PUBLIC WORKS. The sum of \$142,875 was voted for works on the Nanaimo Extension.

Mr. Tatlow complained that \$2,000 was not enough for repairs and maintenance of the court house at Vancouver.

He had asked \$5,400, which was a moderate estimate.

Hon. Mr. Wells said he considered \$2,000 ample to the present requirements of Vancouver court house.

Mr. Gardner advised his protest to that of Mr. Tatlow, and the bill was passed.

Hon. Mr. Prentice said a school building would be supplied at Atlin.

Maintenance of Government House, Victoria, \$4,698, was passed.

Mr. Curtis objected to the item \$17,000 for road works on the Nanaimo Extension road.

He thought the amount too large and that many of the superintendents might be dismissed with their salaries.

Mr. Green and Mr. Oliver disagreed with Mr. Curtis, and said a good word for the superintendents. The item then passed.

ROADS, BRIDGES, ETC. Mr. Hawthornthwaite urged the construction of a bridge on the Nanaimo Extension road.

Hon. Mr. Wells said the bridge was a matter of detail in the general improvement of the South Nanaimo district.

Mr. Oliver was informed that a sum was included in the contingency fund for the Ladners and South Westminster road.

MISCELLANEOUS. On the item \$5,000 for the destruction of wolves, bears, panthers and coyotes, Mr. Neill suggested that the practice be changed so that men who killed these animals would be relieved from paying a fee to a justice of the peace for taking the carcasses to the Government.

Mr. Green and Mr. Oliver suggested a method of branding by which the government would be protected from fraud through the sale of the same skins.

Mr. Oliver was informed that a sum was included in the contingency fund for the Ladners and South Westminster road.

On the item of \$1,800 for superannuation, Mr. Helmecken said that the law should take steps to provide a uniform scheme of superannuation of civil servants.

Mr. Helmecken said that the best interests of the province should be provided for in some way in their declining years, and that the government should take some steps in that direction.

Hon. Mr. Turner agreed with Mr. Helmecken. He said a stipend of some such as is in vogue in the Dominion should cover the case. He had a plan under consideration some years ago.

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but had not been able to carry it out. Messrs. Oliver and Munro opposed the suggestion.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite warmly supported the idea. He would like to go further and provide a pension for every working man in the province.

Mr. Curtis would support a scheme by which an old age pension would be granted to every civil servant, and in case of his premature death that his family would be provided for.

Mr. Rogers said he was going too far in the matter of pensioning civil servants. It would have a tendency to make them careless and extravagant. He believed in a system of compulsion insurance.

AGENT-GENERAL. A salary passage followed between the members for Nelson and the minister, the latter insisting that the comments, the latter insisting that the comments, the latter insisting that the comments.

Mr. Tatlow called the attention of the minister of mines to the desirability of changing the law with regard to the requirement of iron deposits. They were more in the nature of coal lands and the latter should be allowed to state a larger area than that of ordinary mineral claims.

Mr. Curtis did not agree with members who considered amendments to the act unnecessary. He suggested several which he considered highly desirable and which he explained in detail.

Mr. Martin suggested that a number of the proposed clauses be dropped and that those that were essential should be added to the mineral act at this session.

Mr. Hunter deprecated such legislation in this important matter, although he would not oppose the second reading.

Hon. Mr. Turner moved the adjournment of the debate.

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Section 8 of the Mineral Act as amended by section 3 of the "Mineral Act Amendment Act, 1900," is hereby amended by inserting after the words "obtained a" in the third line thereof, the word "current."

What ordinary miner or prospector, he asked, could expect a pension unless he carried a law library in his outfit.

Mr. Neill criticized other proposed changes of which he did not see the value.

Mr. Houston read adverse comments on the bill by Kootenay miners.

The mining committee, by a solid majority, had decided that amendments to the bill were inadvisable and he thought the minister of mines should withdraw the bill.

A sharp passage followed between the members for Nelson and the minister, the latter insisting that the comments, the latter insisting that the comments, the latter insisting that the comments.

Mr. Tatlow called the attention of the minister of mines to the desirability of changing the law with regard to the requirement of iron deposits. They were more in the nature of coal lands and the latter should be allowed to state a larger area than that of ordinary mineral claims.

Mr. Curtis did not agree with members who considered amendments to the act unnecessary. He suggested several which he considered highly desirable and which he explained in detail.

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British Columbia would differ with him in that contention. It had been decided by a member in the Dominion house that the coal mining companies should not be forced to pay a royalty of five cents a ton on coal, but he held that the coal mining companies should be allowed to state a larger area than that of ordinary mineral claims.

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