

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Seventh Parliament.

FORTY EIGHTH DAY.

THURSDAY, Feb. 7, 1895.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 p.m.

Prayers by Rev. W. L. Clay.

Mr. KILLEN introduced a bill intituled

"An act respecting the incorporation of

tramway, telephone and telegraph com-

panies in West Kootenay district." Read a

first time.

SHIP-BUILDING.

Mr. Booth moved: "Whereas the lumber-

ing interest in this province has been

seriously disadvantaged, owing to a want of

properly constructed vessels to carry the

lumber to the markets of the world; and

whereas this province abounds in

forests of timber of the best quality for

ship-building purposes, and it is desirable

to utilize this timber in the construction of

wooden vessels adapted to the lumber car-

rying trade by the establishment of ship-

building yards within the province where

such vessels may be constructed and

equipped; and whereas the establishment

of the ship-building industry would greatly

stimulate every branch of trade, create a

large revenue for the province, and to the

public revenue: Be it therefore resolved, that

the Lieutenant-Governor in Council be re-

quested to consider and adopt such

measures as may be deemed best

to secure the establishment of a ship-

building industry in the province." The

motion was carried by a large majority.

Mr. SEMLIN raised the point of order

that this resolution involves a charge upon

the revenue, and therefore can only properly

be introduced with the consent of the

crown.

The SPEAKER said if the words "and

adopt" were struck out of the resolution it

would not be out of order, and the words

were accordingly struck out. The resolution

was then adopted.

Mr. SEMLIN opposed the resolution,

claiming that since British Columbia cannot

compete with that from Washington

in many places in the interior of this

province, it is useless to attempt to bolster

up shipbuilding.

Mr. RITCHIE sympathized with the

resolution, but could not assist him in

placing the province where other countries

left off about twenty-five years ago. He

pointed out that wooden shipbuilding has

been abandoned almost everywhere, and he

thought there would be fewer wooden ships

built in the next five years than have been

constructed in the five years past. His

experience has been that it is almost impos-

sible for wooden ships such as contemplated by

the resolution to compete with iron vessels

for the carrying trade of the world. Some

years ago there was a good deal of wooden

shipbuilding on Puget Sound to accommo-

date the carrying trade of the U. S. coast,

which can only be carried on by vessels of

U. S. register, but there, as everywhere

else, the industry has fallen off of late years.

He thought it would be neither a kindness

to the country nor to those who propose to

go into the business to encourage the build-

ing of these ships by any other aid than

that afforded by the trade and com-

merce of the world to the ships

that adapted to their use. He denied

that wooden ships have any capacity, strength

or otherwise, any advantage over iron, the

very converse being the case. When an

industry of this kind has to be undertaken

by a country, it is evident, it should not

begin where others are leaving off, but

should start on the most modern lines, and

for this and other reasons stated he could

not support the resolution.

After further discussion the resolution

was put and lost.

Mr. KITCHEN presented a petition from

Perseverance Lodge No. 1, I.O.G.T., against

the bill respecting retail liquor licenses.

Read a first time.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

Hon. Mr. MARTIN resumed his remarks

on the motion for the second reading of the

Sunday observance bill, which he considered

not required and should not be passed.

Dr. WALKER spoke in support of the

bill though he would like to see it amended

in some respects.

Hon. COL. BAKER likewise wished to see

Sunday properly observed, but he felt that

there should be a great difference in the

opinions of the houses as to what

constitutes proper observance. He did

not think we could possibly have a better

Sunday law than that of the Old Country,

which we now have in force, and therefore

he did not wish to see the bill passed.

Hon. Mr. TURNER said he was glad to

see that the hon. member for South Na-

naimo at least is prepared to keep the Sab-

bath, but like that hon. gentleman he found

some parts of the bill which he could not

support. He did not think it proper to

provide that everyone must be shut up in

town and not be allowed to get out into the

country on Sunday or any other day. He

thought there ought to be a day of rest, but

the rational enjoyment of the people should

not be interfered with. He did not want

to vote against the second reading, but if

all the objectionable features are struck out

of the bill, which he would be hardy

in committee there will be hardly any

left.

Mr. HUNTER supported the bill which he

thought would be for the advantage of

every person in the province. He

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