

Provincial Legislature

An Outstanding Bill Contracted by Late Government in Debate.

The Songhees Reserve Bill is Once More Before the House.

Assessment Act Amendment in the Committee of the Whole.

Friday, March 10, 1905. THE House assembled at 2 o'clock, and after prayers were read by Rev. Mr. Hicks, the following business was in order:

Mr. Williams introduced a bill to amend the Provincial Legislation Act in order that the House be granted for a return of copies of all correspondence between the government or any member thereof, and any other person or persons in respect to the claim of Mr. Anlay Morrison, K. C., for compensation for services rendered.

He explained that Mr. Morrison had given certain services in connection with the New Westminster bridge, which cost considerable expense. His bill was disputed by the present government, and Mr. Oliver understood a petition of right to see the government in order to have the matter settled by the court had been refused. He thought there could be no objection to the production of the correspondence.

The Premier said there was no objection to the production of the papers. At the same time he questioned the propriety of the member for Delta in allowing himself to be believed to be an assessor to do his duty, in allowing an incorrect statement to be returned, and the bill was accordingly referred to the committee of the whole.

The Finance Minister explained that Mr. Morrison had sent in a bill for \$3,000, which was considered to be a bill for the services rendered. Mr. J. A. Macdonald wanted to know if the claim was outrageous as claimed by the Finance Minister, and if the government should refuse petition of right to allow the courts to decide in the matter. He said that it was a private matter which should have been settled long ago.

Mr. Wells said he was a member of the government responsible for this account. He explained that the occasion of the employment of Mr. Morrison was a dispute with the Canadian railway committee, and Mr. Morrison was engaged. It was found that they had no status under the railway committee, and the judgment of several weeks was necessary during which, although the House had adjourned, Mr. Morrison had been retained at Ottawa. He had also been obliged to go there specially on several occasions subsequently. He (Mr. Wells) was satisfied that the claim was a reasonable one.

Mr. Oliver did not think any improper motion should be introduced to him in introducing the subject. The Premier assured the member for Delta that no such intention existed. He did think, however, that the hon. gentleman was ill advised. Mr. Oliver thought he was capable of judgment, and he would be glad to know if it was so that the Attorney-General had intimated some months ago that he would be glad to see the Finance Minister should not characterize Mr. Morrison's bill as an outrageous claim without substantial evidence that it was so.

The motion passed.

Songhees Bill. Upon consideration of the Songhees reserve bill on report.

Mr. Cameron again proposed his amendment, related in committee of the whole, to add certain sections to the bill as follows:

- 1. For a free grant to the city of Victoria of the twenty-five acres of land lying to the north of the Esquimalt road, such land to be used for public park purposes, upon such conditions as may be determined by the council in council may prescribe;
- 2. By giving to the city of Victoria the right to purchase the lands of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo roads, and one-half acre (more or less) of the said reserve lying to the south of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo roads, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the city and the Lieut.-Governor in council;
- 3. By a free grant to the city of Victoria of the twenty-five acres of land lying to the north of the Esquimalt road, such land to be used for public park purposes, upon such conditions as may be determined by the council in council may prescribe;

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For sites for purposes of (a) public school or schools, (b) fire hall, (c) three public landing places, including wharves and buildings, upon such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Lieut.-Governor in council may prescribe.

4. The remaining portions of the reserve may be disposed of by public auction, under the terms and conditions as provided by the Land Act.

The point was again taken that the amendment inasmuch as it encroached upon the government's prerogatives in the matter of dealing with crown lands was out of order, and the point was debated some length by Mr. Oliver, Mr. Macdonald, the Premier and others.

The position taken by the opposition was that while the inauguration of such a measure was beyond the powers of a private member, once it was brought down and submitted to the House it was acceptable to amendment upon motion of any member.

The Speaker reserved decision in the matter of Monday, and further consideration of the bill was accordingly stood over until then.

The bill to amend the Assessment Act was committed, Mr. Fraser in the chair. This bill provides for the re-opening of mining assessments and subsequent returns of assets.

Mr. Macdonald argued that it was the assessed value that was the basis of the returns and that the assessment was correct before the assessment was closed. He proposed an amendment that an additional three months should be allowed for the re-opening of assessments, for the re-opening of same, and the correction of any mistakes, instead of the present one month.

The Attorney-General said this was only in the case of wilfully deceptive returns, and that in the case of honest misrepresentation occurred through inadvertence. Mr. Macdonald contended that the duty of checking returns and moving their accuracy devolved upon the assessors, who were located in the different districts for this purpose.

He contended that because of the failure of an assessor to do his duty, in allowing an incorrect statement to be returned, and the bill was accordingly referred to the committee of the whole.

The Premier reminded the leader of the opposition that there was a difference of opinion with respect to a substitute for the two per cent. tax. Any statement made by him in the matter of the two per cent. tax, would be taken as a statement of fact.

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FRATRICIDE IS HELD. South Londonderry, N.T., March 10.—After a preliminary hearing today, Frederick Johnson, of Bondville, was held for the grand jury on the charge of fratricide. He is accused of shooting and killing his brother-in-law, whom Frederick claims he shot in self-defense. The testimony tended to show that the shooting, which occurred on February 24, 1904, was the result of a family quarrel.

NEW YORK'S EXPERIMENT. Committee of Nine Favors Separate Bureau for Regulation Social Evil. New York, March 10.—At the close of the long session of the Committee of Nine today, it was stated that the committee favors the establishment of a separate bureau for the regulation of the social evil. This will take the supervision of the police, and the committee does not mean, however, the segregation of the police, but the establishment of a separate bureau for the regulation of the social evil. This will take the supervision of the police, and the committee does not mean, however, the segregation of the police, but the establishment of a separate bureau for the regulation of the social evil.

ADMIRE JAPANESE GENIUS. German General Expresses High Opinion of Island People. Berlin, March 10.—Lieut.-General Baron Von Gayl, Count von Waldersheim's second in command in the China expedition, took occasion at a meeting of the German Asiatic Society tonight to express boundless admiration of Japanese military genius. His remarks were not without effect, as they were the subject of a paper in the "Yellow Journal," in which the writer had pointed out Germany's precarious condition in China. If the present and former members in the Stanford household are being closely watched, Chief of Police Gen. Kuropatkin is not likely to be troubled by any other sentences in the literature of the war. St. Petersburg, March 11.—(2:30 a. m.)—“Last night began the retreat of all our armies,” said Gen. Kuropatkin in a speech at a meeting of the Russian forces at Metz. The speech has been studied as closely as possible by the Japanese, who were closing in on their trail, and sacrificing also, it is conceded, the lives of many of their men. The Russian forces at Metz, however, were not in a position to retreat, and the Japanese were closing in on their trail, and sacrificing also, it is conceded, the lives of many of their men.

RUSSIA ASKS "What Next?" Kuropatkin Announces Retreat of All Russian Armies After Defeat. St. Petersburg, March 11.—(2:30 a. m.)—“Last night began the retreat of all our armies,” said Gen. Kuropatkin in a speech at a meeting of the Russian forces at Metz. The speech has been studied as closely as possible by the Japanese, who were closing in on their trail, and sacrificing also, it is conceded, the lives of many of their men. The Russian forces at Metz, however, were not in a position to retreat, and the Japanese were closing in on their trail, and sacrificing also, it is conceded, the lives of many of their men.

Belief Seems General That Ventures For Peace Will Shortly Be Made. Staff Has Meagre Knowledge of Details—Speculation as to Situation. St. Petersburg, March 11.—(2:30 a. m.)—“Last night began the retreat of all our armies,” said Gen. Kuropatkin in a speech at a meeting of the Russian forces at Metz. The speech has been studied as closely as possible by the Japanese, who were closing in on their trail, and sacrificing also, it is conceded, the lives of many of their men. The Russian forces at Metz, however, were not in a position to retreat, and the Japanese were closing in on their trail, and sacrificing also, it is conceded, the lives of many of their men.

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NEWS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY Captain Finns Late of the Amphion Gets His Promotion. From Our Own Correspondent. London, Feb. 26.—The French second-captain, Francois Finns, is about to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant. He has been in the service of the French army for many years, and has distinguished himself in several campaigns. He is now commanding a company of the Amphion, and is expected to receive his promotion in the near future.

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MRS. CHADWICK'S TRIAL. Will Probably Be Given to the Jury Today. Cleveland, Ohio, March 10.—Tomorrow will be the close of the present trial of Mrs. Chadwick and the case will probably be given to the jury some time today. The trial has been a long and interesting one, and the jury is expected to reach a verdict in the near future.

FIRE AT PHILADELPHIA. Philadelphia, Pa., March 10.—The three upper floors of the seven-story building at 182-4, Filbert street, were destroyed by fire tonight, entailing a loss of about \$100,000. The insurance amounts to about \$75,000. The contents of the first floor were destroyed by water. The origin of the fire is not known.

VERDICT OF POISONING. Mrs. Stanford Killed by Strychnine—No Motive Yet Developed. Honolulu, March 10.—The verdict of the coroner's jury to the effect that the death of Mrs. Stanford was due to strychnine poisoning is the subject of much adverse criticism here. Many persons declare that evidence was lacking to sustain the verdict, and that the jury was not properly instructed.

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RUSSIA ASKS "What Next?" Kuropatkin Announces Retreat of All Russian Armies After Defeat. St. Petersburg, March 11.—(2:30 a. m.)—“Last night began the retreat of all our armies,” said Gen. Kuropatkin in a speech at a meeting of the Russian forces at Metz. The speech has been studied as closely as possible by the Japanese, who were closing in on their trail, and sacrificing also, it is conceded, the lives of many of their men. The Russian forces at Metz, however, were not in a position to retreat, and the Japanese were closing in on their trail, and sacrificing also, it is conceded, the lives of many of their men.

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