

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Third Session of the Seventh Parliament.

TENTH DAY.

MONDAY, Feb. 22.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. Dr. Wilson.

Hon. James Baker presented the twenty-fifth annual report of the public schools.

Mr. Kelle presented a petition for a bill to build bridges over the Columbia at Trail and Robson.

Mr. Hume presented petitions for private bills from the Nelson & Wellington Railroad Company, Noble Five Mining Company, and Fort Steel & Golden Railroad Company; also a petition by the residents of Slocan City against granting water privileges.

Mr. Rogers presented a petition for a private bill to incorporate a railway from Ashcroft to Kamloops at Barkerville.

Mr. Helmecken presented a petition from the Victoria, Vancouver & Westminister Railway for an extension of time; also a similar petition from the Delta, New Westminister & Eastern Railway.

These petitions were read and received, as well as the following:

By Mr. Cotton, from Herbert S. Hall and others, for a private bill to incorporate "The Kootenay Power and Light Company."

By Mr. Helmecken, from J. A. Mara and others, for a private bill to incorporate "The Grand Forks Water, Power and Light Company."

By Mr. Helmecken, from John A. Mara and others, residents of Grand Forks, supporting a measure to incorporate "The Grand Forks Water, Power and Light Company."

Hon. G. B. Martin presented a return called for by Mr. Hume's motion of the amount of timber dues collected in Kootenay, collections for cordwood, names of collectors and amount collected in 1896. This showed the amount of timber dues to be \$8,801; cordwood, \$8,073. A return was also presented showing the amount received from transfers in West Kootenay in 1896 to be \$3,758.35.

The address which the special committee appointed for the purpose of drawing up to present to Her Majesty was presented by the Premier and read:

"TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, THE QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND AND EMPRESS OF INDIA.

"MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN—We, the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects in parliament assembled, beg to offer our most sincere and devoted congratulations upon your happy and glorious jubilee, and to assure you that the vast Empire over which you so graciously rule, has never been so united and so loyal as at this time."

"On the occasion of the attainment of the fiftieth anniversary of Your Majesty's reign, your subjects, the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, presented an address of congratulation, in which they expressed themselves in the following terms:—

"The many years during which Your Majesty has reigned have been marked by a progress in the arts and sciences, an extension and consolidation of British interests throughout the world, and by a policy calculated to ameliorate the condition of the human family.

"We desire to express our profound admiration of the noble and heroic character of Your Majesty's noble life, which will ever be looked upon with pride by your loving subjects.

"We feel unbounded satisfaction that our Province has been so blessed with the name of Your Most Gracious Majesty and that it will ever be a memento of the proud era in British history.

"We pray that the Almighty in His Providence will spare Your Majesty long to reign over us, and will bless Your Majesty with health and happiness.

"We sincerely beg to renew our expressions of affection and loyalty, which are ever served to strengthen and confirm, and to assure Your Majesty that it is with most loyal and affectionate feelings that we have viewed throughout succeeding years the continuance of that wise policy and illustrious career which have been such potent factors in maintaining the integrity and grandeur of your Empire."

"We have viewed with profound satisfaction the efforts which have been made to consolidate the material and political interests of your Empire, and to more closely unite the important parts of which it is composed, and we trust to see realized in the near future the anticipations of many of your loving subjects, and of the greater number of your loving subjects."

"We pray again that the Almighty in His Providence will spare Your Majesty long to reign over us, and bless Your Majesty with continued health and happiness."

The Premier said: "In rising to move the adoption of the address prepared by the select committee of the house in commemoration of Her Majesty's long reign, and which is in accord with the sentiments which have been or will be expressed, I am said in saying, by every fluent and eloquent speaker who has taken part throughout the widest extent of the British Empire. I feel that Providence has answered in a very special way the prayer that some day we should have a large gathering of the people of every loyal gathering of her subjects: 'Happy and glorious, long to reign over us, God save the Queen.' I am performing a paramount duty as leader of this government in asking this assembly to join with all other assemblies in Canada in presenting its congratulations to Her Gracious Majesty not only because she has reigned the longest of any sovereign of Great Britain, but because her sovereignty has been the noblest, the most notable and the most productive of beneficent results of any—I will not say in the history of the British Empire—but in the history of the world. This is a remarkable claim to put forward on behalf of Queen Victoria, but one which no impartial student of history will dispute. She has been the greatest queen of a great people in the greatest age of the world. Of her it may well be said she is loved by all, honored by all, and feared by none."

"Although during her sixty years of rule there have been witnessed some of the greatest and cruellest wars, the empire has enjoyed, with few exceptions, a long period of peace and prosperity, the results of which have been most conspicuous in the development of arts and sciences and material resources and in the development of the human race."

"We can hardly realize what has taken place in so long a reign. In 1837 when Her Majesty succeeded to the throne there was not a single settler in what was then the vast country known as the Oregon territory, and in fact on the whole of the Northern Pacific coast. A few there are who sat in the old Vancouver Island parliament of 1856 and who lived in the province at the time; and we do them honor as our very

oldest pioneers, and yet Queen Victoria had then reigned twenty years. The whole country west of the Mississippi river and that west of the Great Lakes containing a population of between ten and fifteen millions of people, has been settled and developed since her accession to the throne.

"I am getting to be an old man myself, and among my first vivid remembrances is the tall, strong school boys of the coronation at London, whom some of their parents had made a journey to London to catch a glimpse of. About that time too, as opened on the first railways in England, the Manchester and Liverpool, at which you will remember, Mr. Heskison was killed.

"In British Columbia, financial and industrial system has been revolutionized since sixty years ago; the Reform Law, repeal of the Corn Laws, the establishment of Free Trade, the Penny Postage system and other great movements have culminated, and we have seen men as Lord Macaulay, Daniel O'Connell, Cobden, Wellington, Peel, John Bright, John Stuart Mills, Canning, Henry Hallam, Thomas Carlyle, Lord Lytton, Mackenzie Child, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Lord Brougham, and hosts of other great names of men, all passed away, and who, humbling the pages of the history of the nineteenth century."

"The application of steam for motive purposes, which practically originated with James Watt, has developed into a tremendous power, and has given us the great systems of railways and ocean navigation, which have afforded an impetus immeasurable to industry in every form, in connection with the wonderful progress of tools and the utilization of wood, iron, steel, and other materials, in one way. Electricity followed, which, among its other wonders, has brought the ends of the world into speaking distance of each other. We have seen great ship canals constructed, phenomenal bridges built, the great Industrial and Art Exhibitions, which I may say were originated by her Majesty, the Royal Consort, and commenced with that fairy-like structure in Hyde Park, in 1851, the original and model of most that followed, culminating at Chicago a few years since."

"Such is not half the record of this great reign. But it is not on account of these things that we are gathered here. Her Majesty has ruled that we admire her, or is because of her qualities as a woman, her virtues and wisdom as a queen, and her loyalty and allegiance we owe to her as head of the British Empire, that we desire to honor and commemorate the attainment of the sixtieth year of her reign."

"Summing up her reign, I cannot do better than quote from her own words, speaking in the third person, in a letter to Sir William Vernon Harcourt in connection with the demonstration of sympathy from her loyal subjects drawn forth by an attempt to shoot Her Majesty while leaving Windsor station on the 2nd March, 1892. After referring to the outbreak of loyalty in her behalf, she said: 'It has ever been her greatest object to do all she can for her subjects and to progress in the arts and sciences, and to do all she can to promote the prosperity and happiness of those over whom she has reigned so long, and these efforts will be continued as long as she lives and until her hour of life.'" (Loud applause.)

Mr. Semlin, the leader of the opposition, in cordially seconding the adoption of the address, said he need not repeat the various parts of the petition of Her Majesty's reign so ably referred to by the Premier. He could only add that he hoped that Her Majesty would live to see the various parts of the petition empire over which she reigned drawn closer and closer together in bonds of unity, and that she might be long spared to reign over us as peacefully, happily and contentedly. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put by the Speaker and carried with much enthusiasm.

Mr. Booth presented the fifth report of the select standing committee on private bills and standing orders as follows:

"Your committee beg leave to report that the standing orders in connection with the undermentioned petitions have been complied with: No. 21. Petition of Warburton and others, for a bill to amend the British Columbia Power and Light Co.; No. 32. Petition of the Kootenay Power Co.; No. 28. Petition of the Nanaimo and Victoria Waterworks Co.; No. 30. Petition of Nelson Waterworks Co.; No. 30. Petition of the Vancouver and Lulu Island Railway Co."

The report was received.

Mr. Booth presented the sixth report of the select standing committee on private bills and standing orders as follows:

"The information asked for is not at present available, but the department will endeavor to furnish answers after communicating with the respective mining recorders."

Mr. Kennedy asked the Premier: "Is it the intention of the government to introduce at this session any legislation for the purpose of raising the payment of grand jurors?"

The Premier replied: "The information asked for is not at present available, but the department will endeavor to furnish answers after communicating with the respective mining recorders."

Mr. Kennedy asked the Premier: "Is it the intention of the government to introduce at this session any legislation for the purpose of raising the payment of grand jurors?"

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he would ask that the report be held over.

To this Mr. Booth agreed.

Mr. Cotton, because the matter was serious, wanted some immediate action taken. It was a question that had been before the house for some years, and the sooner it was disposed of the better for the house and the people. There were numerous companies now before the house asking for very large water powers, some of them covering areas of country 30 and 40 miles in extent. He would not for a moment hinder the introduction of capital or transfer enterprises, and would like to see some legislation in accord with the recommendation of the committee.

The speaker here directed the attention of Mr. Cotton to the fact that he was out of order, as the motion to adopt the report had not been recorded.

Mr. Cotton was of opinion that the settlers should not be obliged to pay stampage for cordwood, and would like to see the land law amended in this respect.

Mr. Booth did not believe in having immigration agents inducing people to come here, but that the government should adapt themselves to the conditions of a bush farm.

Mr. Graham agreed with him in this.

Mr. Macpherson took exception to Mr. Odium having been paid to attend the immigration conference to the government, and having furnished him with magic lantern slides for lectures in England.

Hon. Col. Sader replied that Professor Odium was furnished with some slides to enable him to give lectures on British Columbia in England. The class of immigration they hoped to attract from Great Britain was mainly composed of farmers' sons, the same class of men who had helped to settle up Eastern Canada.

Mr. Adams thought that the present mining development would result in a farming class following without the need of immigration.

Mr. Kennedy moved leaving the settlement of the country to those immigrants who would come unassisted.

Hon. Mr. Martin, in reference to the timber of the province was as much an asset of the province as mineral, and the province had a right to make revenue out of it. If the tax was borne by the people who would take the opportunity of denuding the timber lands without the province obtaining any benefit from it.

Captain Irving, in closing the debate, renewed his objections to the colonies placed up the coast.

Mr. Adams moved, seconded by Mr. Rogers, for a return of the dues collected on cordwood in the different districts of the province, as provided for in the Land Act of 1896. Carried.

Mr. Semlin moved, seconded by Mr. Cotton, that a select committee, composed of Messrs. Booth, Walkem, Stoddard, Forster and the mover, be appointed to inquire into the state of the public health in the principal centres of population, with power to call for persons and papers and to report to this house.

The Premier showed that the health board had been working vigorously to improve the public health, and that a full report on this subject was expected to be presented to the house in a few days.

Mr. Booth saw no need of the resolution, for the board of health were in a better position to report than any committee of the house.

Mr. Walkem complained that in the appointment of a sanitary inspector the government had slighted the families of the older residents by appointing a comparatively newcomer.

Hon. Mr. Eberts was satisfied that the health board were doing their best, and pointed out that the old residents were not eligible in appointments made by the government.

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applied to any part of the province. Of course on the Coast transportation by water was very much easier and cheaper.

To Capt. Irving the Premier pointed out that settlements along the Coast made by steamships, and he bore testimony to the value of the Scandinavian settlers.

Mr. Kitchen, who appeared for the first time in his place in the house yesterday, having been ill for some time, said that the government was giving assistance to the colonies that they did not grant to individual settlers in other parts of the province.

Mr. Huff did not object to the government's policy, but believed that 100 acres was too large a grant to settlers—eighty acres was quite enough.

Mr. Cotton was of opinion that the settlers should not be obliged to pay stampage for cordwood, and would like to see the land law amended in this respect.

Mr. Booth did not believe in having immigration agents inducing people to come here, but that the government should adapt themselves to the conditions of a bush farm.

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tion of the rules so as to admit of the bill being introduced.

The report was adopted.

It was 6 o'clock when the house adjourned.

ELVELEVEN DAY.

TUESDAY, Feb. 23, 1897.

Prayers by Rev. Dr. Wilson.

Mr. Kennedy presented a petition from the local Council of Women asking for an amendment to the Pharmacy Act to obtain greater protections against accidental poisoning.

Mr. Booth, for the private bills committee, reported that the standing orders in connection with the undermentioned petitions have been complied with: No. 21. Petition of Warburton and others, for a bill to amend the British Columbia Power and Light Co.; No. 32. Petition of the Kootenay Power Co.; No. 28. Petition of the Nanaimo and Victoria Waterworks Co.; No. 30. Petition of Nelson Waterworks Co.; No. 30. Petition of the Vancouver and Lulu Island Railway Co."

The report was received and adopted.

Major Mutter, for the printing committee, handed in the following report: "The select standing committee on public accounts beg leave to report as follows:—

That they have the honor to submit:—

1. Copies of correspondence relating to reduction of premiums on the conversion of the loans of 1877 and 1887, and results thereof submitted.

2. Return of revenue and expenditure for the six months ending 31st December, 1896.

3. Return statement of expenditure on account of Provincial Board of Health for six months ending 31st December, 1896.

4. Statement of payments made on account of guarantees for the six months for the year ending 31st December, 1896.

No. 1.

Return showing the amount of debentures of the loans of 1877 and 1887 reduced by conversion into 3 per cent. inscribed stock during the six months ending 31st December, 1896:

6 per cent. debentures, loan of 1877.....\$5,000 at 125

4 1/2 per cent. debentures, loan of 1887.....\$5,000 at 120

Total.....\$8,000

6 per cent. inscribed stock.....\$6,250

4 1/2 per cent. inscribed stock.....\$1,750

Total.....\$8,000

No. 2.

Statement of revenue and expenditure as brought to account at treasury for six months ending 31st December, 1896.

RECEIPTS.

Dominion of Canada—

Half yearly payment of interest.....\$14,575.33

Half yearly payment of subsidy.....17,500.00

Half yearly payment grant.....39,209.20

Half yearly payment grant.....39,209.20

Land sales.....50,000.00

Land revenue.....44,463.63

Land revenue.....44,463.63

Rents (timber leases).....27,743.94

Rents (exclusive of lands).....3,870.80

Survey fees.....387.80

Freemasons certificates.....42,896.00

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