

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Second Session of the Sixth Parliament.

EIGHTH DAY.

Thursday, Feb. 11, 1892. The speaker took the Chair at 2 o'clock. Prayers by Rev. P. McLeod.

MR. BRAY presented a petition from the Sisters of Charity, in Westminster, asking for incorporation.

MR. KIRBY presented a petition from John Cross, regarding certain lands in Chilliwack.

Petitions were read and received, as follows: From Chas. E. Taylor and others, opposing private bill re. Nelson Water Works; from R. Rev. J. N. Lemmens, for a private bill; from S. G. Mitchell, H. Abbott and others, asking incorporation of the North Vancouver Electric Company, Limited; from the Westminister & Vancouver Tramway Company, Limited, opposing the bill to incorporate the Short Line Tramway Company; and from H. Abbott and others, seeking incorporation as the Columbia & Sloan Railway Company.

MR. KIRBY introduced a bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and read a first time motion on Tuesday night.

MR. KIRBY presented a petition from the Kootenay Water Works Company. Bill read a first time and referred to the Private Bills committee.

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quite entitled to it. It might be argued that this clause of the bill was placing a great power in the hands of the Government, but a like power had been in their hands for a long time past, and it would not do to take such power out of the hands of the Government. Great hardships might arise from so doing, as, for instance, in a case where a great strike had been made in a certain district and settlers wanted to buy land on the hands of the Government, they would be able to do so at a good price to the land which would not be so free to build. He thought the power should be left in the hands of the Government, so that they would be compelled to have a sale, as was suggested by one of the Opposition members who had seen a few days ago. The correct principle was that the Government should have the townships and suburban property to sell, as it would be ridiculous to allow settlers to pre-empt land that was to be sold on the hands of the Government, owing to its proximity to a town. Under the present system, the Government had power to cut up these lands and sell them in blocks, and in some cases, in the instance of this, he gave the sale of lands, last summer, in the vicinity of Vancouver, on the shores of Burrard Inlet, in what is now known as the North Vancouver, and in the hands of the Government to sell such lands, from time to time, by auction, the power required or made it expedient. The people would have no fear that the power would be abused, for the Government was a responsible Government. Referring to the question of maps, he said that a great deal of work had been done in the Department was now taken up in making surveys, plans, etc., there having been no less than 25,000 acres planned during the past year, and this must of necessity have taken up a good deal of the time of the officials. He corrected Hon. Mr. Beaven's contention of a few days ago, as to that Government had instituted the system of selling unsurveyed lands, and stated that he thought that when the law was altered in that way, it was a great advantage, because, owing to the changing circumstances, it was necessary to change the law, for the country in those days (1873) was vastly different to what it is now. The remark had been made that it was a poor time now to stop the sale of unsurveyed lands, when all, or nearly all, the good agricultural land had been sold. He said that there had been some 2,000,000 acres alienated, besides the 11,000,000 acres, in the 40-mile belt, a total of say, in round numbers, 14,000,000 acres, while there were, according to best information, some 600,000 acres of land in the province, and the possibilities of some of it for agricultural purposes were simply unknown. More especially was this the case with lands in the interior, and in the interior where, from the most reliable reports that could be had, there was, without doubt, the finest agricultural land in any part of the continent. He thought that it would be that surveying would go on from year to year on a regular systematic basis, irrespective of what Government was in power, and that the Government would be able to get in the field, they would be able to do the work much more rapidly than in the past. Some 20,000 maps had already been issued and he hoped before the end of the session that a new map would be brought down which would contain the latest information received by the government from all sources. The Surveyor General's report would also be brought down shortly. It would be the most comprehensive report yet issued and would contain most valuable information. When the present bill went into Committee of the Whole the Government had pleased to accept detail amendments to ensure the best possible operation of it, but the principles contained in the bill, the Government would be quite prepared to accept suggestions from any member of the House as to detail changes. (Prolonged applause).

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MR. KIRBY said that the principal feature of the bill was to prevent the sale of unsurveyed lands, and in this he understood the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Beaven) agreed. He noted in the various changes that had been made in the land laws from time to time as the needs of the province required. Under the present act, lands were sold by the Government, and in this case the purchaser would require to pay the Government 15 cents per acre for cost of survey. So far as the question of land in the hands of the Government, he was of opinion that there would be no difficulty about that as though the Government could not sell Crown lands for non-payment of the less held by the lessee, he defended the course of the Government in placing the power of dealing with the provisions of the act in the hands of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. If the Government did not do this there was no use having a Chief Commissioner. He congratulated the Government on their new Bill, and thought that it was a very good one, and that it would be a great benefit to the province. He thought that the Government had done the right thing, and that the bill would be a great benefit to the province. He thought that the Government had done the right thing, and that the bill would be a great benefit to the province. He thought that the Government had done the right thing, and that the bill would be a great benefit to the province. He thought that the Government had done the right thing, and that the bill would be a great benefit to the province.

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set in force, and there was no reason to believe that the present Government would not see that the people got this as soon as possible. He thought the actual settler should have all possible information, and that information received from all surveys should be open to the public. He would have more to say in committee about some of the details of the bill which he objected to. Mr. HUNTER thought that a very serious objection could be raised against the bill, and that it was necessary to change his opinion when there was good cause for it. For his own part, he was supporting the bill, but he thought that the bill was not a simple one. The bill was adapted to the requirements of the country. So far as the arguments, that the Government should have discretionary powers, were concerned, he thought that that was a principle which would be accepted by every member of the House. The cry was that the bill was not an agricultural land. The very best part of it was yet open for pre-emption.

MR. KIRBY thought that section five of the new bill was a very serious one. He wanted to see the sale of lands completely done away with except the sale of townships and suburban properties. When the House was asked to accept the bill he would propose some amendments. One of those amendments was that pre-emptors should be allowed six months leave of absence from their claims. He thought that the Government should run on Crown lands. He would also like to see the measuring of logs in committee of the whole, taking the question up in detail. He thought that a very serious amendment should be proposed.

Hon. Mr. TURNER congratulated members of Opposition and led up to a point on the bill, he said, almost in his most ardent supporters and there was no doubt the bill would go through almost unanimously. He thought that the bill was a very good one, and that it would be a great benefit to the province. He thought that the Government had done the right thing, and that the bill would be a great benefit to the province. He thought that the Government had done the right thing, and that the bill would be a great benefit to the province. He thought that the Government had done the right thing, and that the bill would be a great benefit to the province.

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Committee of the whole on the Coat of Arms Bill. Hon. Mr. DAVIE moved an amendment, giving His Honor the Lieut. Governor power to suspend the operation of the act, in certain cases and for cause, for a period not to exceed one year. Amendment adopted; bill read a third time and passed.

THE LAND ACT. The House went into committee of the whole on the Land Act Amendment Bill, Mr. KIRBY in the chair. Mr. KIRBY moved to amend section five of the Land Act, so as to permit settlers to leave their pre-emptors for six months each year, instead of for two months as at present.

Hon. Mr. DAVIE explained the objections to the amendment, on the ground that it would tend to encourage speculation. He thought that the bill was a very good one, and that it would be a great benefit to the province. He thought that the Government had done the right thing, and that the bill would be a great benefit to the province. He thought that the Government had done the right thing, and that the bill would be a great benefit to the province.

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