## PRICE OF COAL

the British Columbia consumer and the appropriate measures to he adopted in investigating the causes operatfurnished the text of an exceptionally Friday, the result of which was the adoption of a resolution arging the provincial government to appoint a coal mining and marketing generally. In past years, notably in 1908 and 1909 resolutios touching the sam matter have been adopted by the house, the desired investigation being however asked of the Federal covern position to move in the matter.

to pass, Premier McBride pointed out that constitutions ily responsibility in this matter unquesionably rested with the Dominion goverament. The provincial government in transmitting the present resoil to to Ottawa would emphasize the extreme desirability of such actior, as had been asked; and if on this third application no action such as desired by the people of the province were forthcoming the government would consider what other steps in ght be adopted with a view to ar ousing public opinion by investigapublication of the facts touching the subject of admitted grievance-although in the ultimate outcome any action to be taken must Emanate with Ottawa, as being in control of the national trade and com-

The resolution introduced by McGuire was cordially supported by Messrs. Carter-Cotton, Watson, Tisdail, Brewster and William Manson; will e opposition was led by Mr. Hawthorithwaite, who came out unqualifledly in support of non-interference with the coal mining operators, Messrs Williams and M. Manson also dissenting from the apparently general feel ing of the house.

The other special features of the day's proceedings in parliament was the moving of the second reading of the new railway law of the riovince Attorney-General Bowser, who was followed and strong v supported by Mr. Cotton. The debate on this motion stands, to be resumed today by the member for Newcastle.

It is also expected that today Mr. Jardine of Esquimalt will seek the iadaigence of the house in order to make a detailed and specific explanation in denial of charges made (Sd.) "JOHN G. FARMER. against him by Mr. John Oliver in a recent address, and by the Hon. Wilpaper. In this explanation Mr. Jar- the city clerk, Thomas Shepherd, and what appeared to be a very excessive documentary exhibits supporting his ber for Richmond, almost identical in price of coal operate as a hardship to statements of fact. Included in yes- tenor and effect; while the secretary of the fuel users of the Province, but a reasonable price, No one who had terday's routine: The bill of the the Central Conservative Association of many important industries were way Co. was duly reported from the the 20th ultimo, said: private bills railway committee; and the Public Service Act amendment bill ing acutely in this matter, and at the and the bills respecting Strathcona

Park were given third reading. Moves Resolution Upon the opening of the House yesterday a first report from the committee on railways was presented by M: Tisdall, the chairman, taking the usual course; and immediately thereafter Dr. McGuire (Vancouver) moved, with Mr. McKay as seconder, his resolution with respect to coal supply and prices to the British Columbia consumer, Mr. Speaker interposing no This resolution, ov yery especial interest to the communities

of the Lower Mainland read as folcost of coal to the consumer in the lic bodies read: province of British Columbia is out of

coal in British Columbia has the ef- on a long suffering public, therefore, ton from the price of American coal. fect of retarding and preventing the be it resolved that the provincial gov- The price of the best West Virginia establishment in this province of in- ernment be requested to investigate the coal at the mines was stated by the dustries depending upon a fuel supply | coal question."

the coal mines of the province is being government should disclaim jurisdicexported to foreign markets and sold tion, the matter should be referred to at a price that enables it to compete the Dominion government. with coal from other countries in such foreign markets; and

is an understanding between the per- McGuire, who mentioned that at a sons or corporations controlling or meeting of the Vancouver city council, owning such coal mines to maintain at which this matter was discussed, the high prices now being charged Mr. Glover, in charge of the gas works to consumers in this province:

the advisability of appointing a royal

1. Whether or not a combine understanding exists amoung the coal mines. As much as \$5 a ton was now averages about \$1.90 per ton, inclusive province to establish and maintain prices charged for coal? "2. Whether or not coal is hel

sold by producers, or any of them, for amply justified any trespass upon the supplies and fixed charges—would no

harged by the producers, or any of unclated upon the occasions in ques-nem of coal in British Columbia bears tion. He would say as to this that he

a reasonable proportion to the cost of production?"

In offering this motion to the house, the fifth member from Vancouver city said that the questions involved had almost attained the dignity of a hardy annual. Yet so great was its imporand that, the questions involved had almost attained the dightty of a hardy amoust. Yet so great was its important of the regulation of the regulation of the fregulation of the freely attempted to the freely and as such feel ingitive and as such as a section of the feel ingitive and and as under the lingitive and as such feel ingitive in the such feel ingitive and the such feel ingitive and the such feel ingitive and the such feel

tention of the house to the conditions in connection with the sale of coal to the consumer obtaining at the present time in the province, and more particularly in Vancouver city and vicinity.

In the event of a commission being coularly in Vancouver city and vicinity. cularly in Vancouver city and vicinity But in addition to these resolutions, he had been handed also telegrams re ceived by the member for Richmond from both the city, and the municipality of North Vancouver; and he be-lieved that the member for Richmond as well as his colleagues from Vancouver, Messrs, Tisdall and Watson would be heard from before the close of the debate as recruits to the cause which he was endeavoring to champion. The telegram from the municipality of North Vancouver read as follows:

"North Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 30th, "Hon. F. L. Carter-Cotton, "Legislative Building,

"Victoria B C "District Council, North Vancouver, desire to draw the attention of the government to the injustice that the district and city of North Vancouver are subjected to in matter of their coal supply, as the colliery owners refuse to supply coal to any reputable dealer in the district, but force them to purchase through coal dealers in Vancouver, from whom at present time no regular supply is obtainable. We would, therefore, humbly urge that such steps ish Columbia. The Premier had enrestriction of trade and aflow mer-

"Clerk District Council." liam Templeman and the Times news- there was also a telegram, signed by in this Province should be charged dine proposes to introduce various addressed on Tuesday last to the mem- price for coal. Not alone did the high Mountain Scenic Incline Rail- Richmond, in a letter bearing date of

"We in North Vancouver are sufferpresent time are unable to obtain an ounce of coal. The mines refuse to sell direct to the two firms here in North Vancouver, with the consequence that they are dependent upon the Vancouver firms, who hold up the North Vancouver firms in every conceivable way. This is a matter which might well claim your attention, as we in North Vancouver feel that there is un-

Hospital Board's Resolution The original resolution adopted at a neeting of the hospital board of Van-

The board has added a rider to its

The influence of the high price of coal on the cost of gas in Vancouver Whereas a belief exists that there was also briefly touched upon by Dr. Therefore, be it resolved that an transfer of the works to a site close to humble address be presented to His deep water would make the company Honor the Lieutenant-Governor by independent of the Vancouver island this house, praying him to consider coal supply, which at present had a monopoly of the business. It would tioned that the cost of mining commission to inquire into the follow- then be possible to secure fuel cheaper Bering River coal would probably be from Britain and Australia than it now found greater than that of mining the could be shipped in for from the island coal in the Washington fields, which of this being paid for gas coal, which a few of labor, supplies and all fixed charges

years ago could be purchased at \$1.50." He was informed that the cost of Dr. McGuire thought that these re- mining a ton of coal in British Coolutions and telegrams in themselves lumbia—similarly inclusive of labor, sold by producers, or any of them, for a less price than that sold for consumption in the province?

"3. Whether or not the prices charging in the legislature had intimated that he producers or any of them."

"4. The producers of any of them in the consideration of this resolution. As to his own position, the former member for Delta in the legislature had intimated that he producers or any of them. was now taking up the position main-tained by the gentleman in 1908 and the distribution for labor, supplies

not the prices at variance with the views he had en-

Resolutions had also been adopted en- doing business in this province. And to \$4.50 for Alaska coal." dorsing the subject matter of this mo- surely if it was competent for the protion by the city council of Vancouver, wincial government to appoint a comthe board of trade, the Ratepayers' As- mission to investigate fire insurance tions. This would in itself be sufficient take action as suggested in this resojustification for again directing the at- lution in a matter so much more direct-

> appointed as desired, the member for Vancouver thought that its investiga tions should not only cover the price at which coal was sold to the British Columbia consumer, and the suggestion of a combine existing among the coal operators and dealers, but it might go further, with advantage and investigate conditions generally with respect to the coal mining industry. He had been told that despite the extra-hazardous nature of his avocation and its many disadvantages, the miner's wage was low; he had himself seen the time sheet of one experienced miner for in our own midst. eleven day's work, and he had noticed that the wage provided for amounted to only about \$1.50 per day, while he had been told that the average wage of the miner in the coast mines of this province, did not exceed \$60 per month, tario on that occasion had taken the in coal mining, should not be well paid had been punished by fines, while

into any extended reference to the immensity of the coal resources of Britbe taken as would remove this unjust tered very fully and very eloquently this matter in his speech on chants of this city and district to pur- Wednesday. He merely directed atchase their fuel from colliery on the tention to the vast extent of British same basis as those of Vancouver city: Columbia's coal measures, both developed and potential, as showing that uld be no reason why with From the city of North Vancouver these vast resources at command, we

through the same cause undoubtedly debarred from coming in. These industries could not be successfully operated, with the price charged for fuel coal, in competition with districts more favorably situated in respect to economy of fuel supply. In North Vancouver at the present time the colliery operators would not appoint a local distributing agent, and the only way which the people of North Vancouver could get fuel at all was by favor of the Vancouver dealers and on payment of an additional doubtedly a 'coal ring,' and that this people of Vancouver were already paying quite enough when they paid \$7.50

per ton for their coal." Prices Elsewhere couver on the 15th December last, and procity in coal recently issued, a letsubsequently endorsed by the city ter was found addressed to the Hon. "Whereas it would appear that the council, board of trade, and other pub- W. S. Flelding, Canadian Minister of "Whereas, this board recognizes that Coal Company, Limited, the president Finance, by the Nova Scotia Fuel and all proportion to the cost of produc- the price of coal in this city is ex- of which company mentioned that durhorbitant; and whereas this board feels ing a recent visit paid by the com-"Whereas, owing to the abundance that the price the hospital has had to pany's sales-agent to the New Engof the coal deposits in this province pay, amounting for the past twelve land market he had seen Pennslyvania and the proximity of the sources of months to \$16,492, has been the chief coal sold in Boston at \$2.70 per ton, supply to the market, the cost of coal cause of our monthly deficit; and free alongside. The company was and that there should be some assurto the consumer in British Columbia whereas this board wishes to place it- also told that the best grade of Nova should be much less than at present self on record as stating that with the Scotia coal could not be sold in the immense coal deposits at our door, the New England market except at a re-Whereas the excessive price of price of coal in this city is an outrage duction of from 30 to 50 cents per Acadia Coal Company, Limited, to olution, and he hoped that the house have run from 96 cents to \$1.11 per would pass it and the government "Whereas much of the product of resolution that in case the provincial ton during the past five years. Run of the mine Nova Scotia coal was sold in Montreal on a carload lots basis at from \$3.85 to \$4.00 per ton, while Pennslyvania anthracite sold throughout Ontario at \$6.50. Comparison of these prices with what the people of British Columbia have to pay for their bituminous coal, mined close at hand within the Province, made it very evident that something was radimanagement, "explained that the to say what this was; that would be cally amiss. It was not his province for the commission, if appointed, to ascertain. In a recent bulletin of the United

States Geological Survey it was men-

1.91 to \$4.10 a

The New South Wales coal fields would probably continue to be com-petitors in the west coast American the board of trade, the Ratepayers' As- mission to investigate fire insurance sociation, and various ward organiza- matters. It was equally competent to markets; some of these fields lay tions. This would in itself he sufficient take action as suggested in this resotimated that their coal can be delivered on shipboard for \$1.78 a ton.

Only Through Own Agents The circumstance that the operators to the house. However, it was a clined to sell to anyone except through their own protected agents was an- and he would support the resolutionhundred tons of coal went for it to the the frue Inwardness of the situation mine, where he was willing to take of which complaint was made. delivery. The operators, however, refused to sell, and it was not until he had paid the Vancouver agent fifty cents on the ton that he was permitted to purchase. This and other circumstances might be taken as indicative that a very serious monopoly existed

In Toronto a few years ago sus picions were excited that a combination had been formed among the plumbers, averse to the public est. The Attorney General of On-He could not see why people working matter up, with the result that some under such conditions as must prevail of those responsible for the combine for their work, and the conditions under others, if he was rightly advised, had which they labored improved to the fullest extreme.

It was unnecessary for him to go trolling the coal supply are not similarly combining to increase the price of coal to the consumer, thereby occasioning much distress, and also preventing the location in British Co-

umbia of many important industries? Mr. Cotton Supports Motion. Mr. Carter-Cotton supported the ents, explaining that they felt the inhis constitut strongly and that steps should be taken in order that they might be enabled to obtain a supply of coal at not been in touch with actual conditions in North Vancouver could ap-preciate their acuteness, householders having virtually to beg for fuel, and heads of families upon occasion being seen drawing home 50-pound sacks of coal on little hand sleighs to maintain a semblance of warmth in their homes. And at that the price charged these residents of North Vancouver for the coal was about \$1.00 more on the ton than coal was selling for in Vancouver City, just across the harbor.

And again, it was impossible, even at that exaggerated price, for them to btain sufficient supplies. As the fifth member for Vancouver had said, a Klondike claim would receive. they were absolutely dependent in this regard upon the good will of the Vancouver City oal dealers as to whether they got any flueu at all. He thought that besides the question of price, if the desired commiswas appointed it should investi gate thoroughly, with a view to devising a better means of distribution of the coal. At present there seemed to be no proper and adequate cies of distribution; it appeared to him that a distribution depot should ance that North Vancouver adequate supply of coal assured in future. He could not predict the result of the adoption of this resolution-he could not say if such a committee as desired would be appo adopt such measures as would obviate the possible recurrence of conditions with respect to coal supply as had prevailed during the past few months in North Vancouver.

Mr. Watson Heard. Mr. Watson said the reason th people of Vancouver had for believing that there should be an investigation into matters affecting the sale and price of coal, was found in the fact that coal is a commodity that comes out of the ground and is a necessity of modern life—the same - as water The people felt, too, that the present excessive price could only be taken as indicative of the existence of a combine; while the action of the dealers in Vancouver in refusing to fill any coal orders except upon cash payments therefor, supported the impression that such a combine existed. He, as well as every man of account, held the retention of his credit in high importance, but existing business nditions were such that the greater part of the business of the world was done upon credit, and the exception coal trade from this ger commercial law or principle was conspicuous and unfair to other comtalso 1909, and in doing so, was acting etc. According to the figures given the second member for Vancouver

nce, the could be solven a factile at along the Great Lakes and throughout earthra-anthra-gold, decold, decold, decold, decold, decold resources and that mining operators 4.50 and resources and that mining operators 4.50 and resources and the fining operators 4.50 and resources and the same would do for relief from a system which created hardships and starvation even in the very wealthy constituency report to 1.50 and resources and the fining operators 4.50 and resources and throughout country would have to turn for resources and the principles of Socialism 4.50 and resources and the fining operators 4.50 and resources and throughout country would have to turn for resources and the principles of Socialism 4.50 and resources and the fining operators 4.50 and re obvious explanation of the existing discrepancy in prices. The commission, if appointed, should carefully investigate each chapter in the coal mining and distribution system, dealing with charges against the output

Mr. Brewster's Position. fifth member for Vancouvre had in-troduced an amendment taking the matter out of the hands of the provincial government, and had vigorously opposed the very resolution which he himself was now presenting the near Provincial collieries de-good thing to see that the member for Vancouver had found the light, common with all citizens of British Mr. Hawthornthwaite Opposes.

Mr. Hawthornthwalte vigorously small business community of British other line and ne pelieved that a would allow. For two years this matter columbia when it happened that the greater net profit could be made than had, been referred to Ottawa without the columbia with the columbia without the columbia with the columbia without the columbia without the columbia with the colum operation of the existing political and in the coal mine business. A comeconomic system hurt their individ- plaint was raised that coal could tion before the House was that if ual interests. At the same time he only be bought through certain agents carried, the government of British ( thought it invidious to select the high but it was not uncommon in any lumbia should put the matter up price of one specific commodity as other business that a commodity Ottawa again, and then if they falled pointing to the necessity of reformed should only be sold in that way. It take action, the local government should other high price injustices there were in existence which, not touching the people who now made complaint, were allowed to pass without comment or objection. Dun and Bradstreets had recently investigated thoroughly, and found that the cost of the majority of necessities had in late years advanced by fully 50 per Then, why select coal for incent. vestigation, and pay no attention to

all the others? He was glad to see that the fifth member for Vancouver had raised the question of the average miner's ple believing that the coal miners he should have kept his seat. He railways. In doing so he pointed wages. As a matter of fact the miner in his constituency a large number of there being nowhere in Canada as than \$60 monthly, as Dr. McGuire had said. The price of the commodity had nothing whatever to do with the wage paid, and the fifth member for Vancouver, who had recently deoted some study to economic questions, should be well aware of this. What if coal did sell for \$7.50 a ton? That did not affect the question of the miner's wage. The owner of a gold mine in the Yukon, took out, with the aid of labor, a quantity of Gold was worth very much more than \$7.50 a ton, yet the value of a ton of gold did not in any way affect the wage that the worker on

was the law of supply and demand that regulated wages The member for Nanaimo had listened with considerable interest to in London, it was stated that the av- minister of railways, but he is the woeful tale of the honorable nember for Richmond; he had sel- with an increased output it might bedom heard anything more pathetic than the honorable member's story of seemed to be a large profit. He sug- Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. Subthe people of North Vancouver on the gested that it might be a good thing to this control, the minister will he verge of starvation in consequence of if the Province would take a leaf out power to enforce the fair wage cla the coal famine. Despite that dread of the book of Australia and New on railways, and in case of dispute recital, however, he did not think the Zealand, and reserve a large area of decision will be final. This arrangement people of North Vancouver were its coal lands for public use. nuch worse situated than the peo ple elsewhere in British Columbia, It

was simply a case of the member for the district awakening at last to his Mr. Hawthornthwaite proceeded with boundaries of parliamentary etiquette.

"Very well, Mr. Speaker," said Mr. Hawthornthwaite at once. "I will proceed no further. And I can assure ember for Richmond that I did not intend to be very offensive in my

emarks with respect to him.' Purely Quixotic. Continuing, the member for Naalmo entitled the present movement a purely Quixotic one. The members for Vancouver-first, second, third, fourth and fifth-would in the end find themselves no better off in their tilting at windmills than others who had followed the same course before them. They would but share the fate of one Teddy Roosevel, who had started out with a grand flourish of trumpets and the announced deter-mination to "bust the trusts." And in the end he had been about "busted" by the trusts. It was absurd for the house to think that it of the government of the province, or any commis sion which might be named by the

as the public wanted. The country had committed itself to the competitive system of production, and only the Socialists had recognized the inevitable consequences that must accure. In the ultimate reckoning the for his coal?"

Mr. Tisdall: "I would like to ask what price does the honorable gentleman pay for his coal?"

Mr. Williams: "I just take a saw and country would have to turn for reform to the principles of Socialism for relief from a system which created hardships and starvation even in the very wealthy constituency replayed.

pter in the coal mier in his speech on Wednesday had when he pointed out that it was of on system, deal-told the House that nearly eight use to attack one commodity, while thousand men were engaged in the same exhorbitant from the time it was taken from the coal mining industry in British Col- levied on other commodities. He did bowels of the earth until it was umbia. If to these men were added blame the coal dealer for getting placed in the cellar of the consumer, their families it would mean that much as he could for his coal, and He strongly supported the resolution. practically one-tenth of the whole some of the gentlemen considered s population of the province was de- too much for a ton of coal, what Mr. Brewster also expressed him- pendent on this industry for a live- they think of the prices some of self as favoring the resolution, while lihood, so that the House should be were asking for a ton of town lot. emi-apologetically explaining that very careful how they dealt with it, was just as much a commodity as his present position he felt con- Coal was not the only commodity for other. He held that the only solu strained to offer certain criticisms as which a high price was charged, and to the manner in which it came be- he did not see why it was singled out fore the house. Similar resolutions for attack. It was true that some five had been offered in the house dur- years ago an increase had been made had been offered in the house dur- years as an interest in the same pleased to support the motion. In Prince y the government and its supporters. time the wages of the men were in-The present resolution was therefore creased about ten per cent., and that paid for coal delivered. It was claimed merely another illustration of the was the reason for the price ingovernment, as not unusually, follow- crease. When compared with other charged by transportation compared ing out enunciated Liberal policy in lines of business he did not think it and for wharfage. He did not know the public interest and just about could be said that the coal dealer was whether this was so, but the public two years behind the procession. When the former member for Delta dealer reduced his prices he would der to determine whether the charges allel with that before the house, the same, and the mine owner to square put it up to the mine owner to do the were or were not too high. himself would have to cut down the wages of the men. That was the point that interested him as repre- as usual set up a straw man in order senting a coal mining constituency. as usual set up a straw man in order to knock him down. The motion was Where would the miner come out if not intended to fix prices as he had his wages were reduced 10 per cent., stated. It simply asked for an inves and the other commodities of life gation. For his own part he would were not reduced in equal proportion? want to see the price of coal reduc-To his mind the resolution was one- if it would lower the wages paid to other matter which invited attention. consistently with his past course. In sided, If the House was to investi- men. He objected to the attitude of the gtae the price of coal, it should also two gentlemen (Mr. Hawthornthwait particular case where a gentleman in Columbia, he thought that the time investigate the manufacture of sugar and Mr. Williams) who sat on Vancouver requiring a quantity of one had come when the people sould know or lumber or the price of boots and Speaker's left, since they seemed clothing. He ventured to say that if claim that they were the sole repositor it did so, there would be very few of of virtue and of wisdom in that House these lines that would not show a He did not doubt that they were sin greater net profit than the coal bus- cere, but they ought at least to give and unqualifiedly opposed the reso- iness did at the present time. Take other members of the House som lution. It amused him, he said, to the capital invested in the coal busi- credit for equal sincerity in their distributions. hear the "squeal" going up from the ness at present and put it into any small business community of British other line and he believed that a

system hurt their individ- plaint was raised that coal could result. His understanding of the resol umbia Sugar Refinery and other in- licity to the facts. stitutions of the kind were in the head of Trade and Commerce, and Government An Impartial Inquiry

Mr. C. E. Tisdall said that it h. no desire on the part of the support- new railway companies without ers of the motion to hit at or reduce necessity of coming to the legislate the wages of these men. All they for special enactment. Not only wo asked was an impartial investigation, the bill apply to all companies to and they hoped that as a result of hereafter incorporated, but also to such inquiry the men would recive companies at present existing in conn higher wages than they had before. Germany, \$2.57; in France \$3,23; in Belgium, \$3.30; in the United States, \$1.44; in Canada, \$2.54; the House have an effective supervision over the members for Vancouver and the member for Richmond should consider \$7,50 a ton an exceedingly high cisions of the board of railway comm price. In the prospectus of the Dunsmuir Coal Company, issued last year erage profit was \$1 per ton, "but trolled by the fact that he must come \$1.50 per ton." That certainly become effective until approved by

Premier's Statement The Premier announced that there in its actual workings. was no objection to the resolution unresponsibilities as representative of der discussion. It was quite true that ing traffic it will be the duty his constituents and their interests. a year ago the member for Vancouver minister to see that no unfair in whose name the resolution stood facetious badinage directed toward had submitted a similar motion to the detriment of the public interest. the member for Richmond, whom he the legislature for its consideration. railway will not be allowed to described as "the Carrie Nation of No substantial progress was made at a lot of clauses on the back of a the Conservative party," being reminded by Mr. Speaker that his perminded the subject was clearly within the himself stopped, if he afterwards can jurisdiction of the government at Ot- to claim damages. Under this bill t

not changed since that time," said way and Canal Traffic Act of 1854 wa Hon. Mr. McBride, "and the state- now enforced here, so the government of the statement of the member for Nanaimo that has settled the matter by practical we are entirely powerless to move in adopting this English act, as well as b the matter is absolutely true. I know inserting the provisions as to liabili of no authority that will enable us of a common carrier found in the Canin any way to control the situation adian Shipping Act. concerning which so much bitter com plaint has been heard here this after noon. The founders of our constitution wisely decided that all matters building a railway in the Province of Trade and Commerce should be the future will be as follows: In the the business of the central, not of the first place five or more persons mus local authorities. To illustrate the point: If a Parliament sat in Victoria tomorrow, clothed with such orandum of association and pay the powers, and indifferent to local in- fees that would be charged under the terests, it would be possible for it to Companies Act. for a \$1,000,000 com devise such laws as to make the op- pany. These fees will amount to \$440 eration of coal mines in British Coi-umbla practically prohibitive. They be cheaper than by a private bill, becould close the mines of British Cot- cause there will be no advertising and government, could go to work and tinker with the prices of any commodity and thus achieve reform such most as much could as we do, to sup-

characteristically Socialistic declared that the House had taken question up at the wrong end as usu-Mr. Manson (Comox) said the Preof these problems was for the people country and operate them for their benefit

Not To Pix Prices

Dr. McGuire, in closing the debate

was no more than the British Col- appoint a royal commission to give pul-"I am going to stay with it." he com habit of doing. He had no special ob- cluded, "and if some action is not taken. jection to any fair investigation, but at some future time I am going to the House should move very careful- divide the House on this matter, and ly in this, as it was not a matter see whether there is a remedy forthfor the Provincial Government to en-force, since it came entirely under the The motion carried without dissent.

Hon. Mr. Ross introduced by message should be referred to the Dominion a bill conveying to the city of Vancouver certain lands for park purposes, the land in question being known as blocks "A" and "B" in Kitsilano. The bill was

> given first reading. The Railway Measure

Attorney-General Bowser moved province on this subject, many peo- remarks of the member for Comox second reading of the bill respective were in receipt of enormously high recognized that that gentleman had that the measure is new in princip. as a general thing would not average miners who earned their living by any "free trade in railways," that is \$3.00 a day, and as a rule not more digging coal, and there was certainly say any system of granting charters tion with such matters as increasing He read statistics showing that the capital stock, issuing of bonds, building average cost of coal at the pit-mouth of branches, passenger and the pit-mouth iffs and forms of bills of lading. Def itions have been inserted of such wor 'toll" or "rates" and "working expen therefore could not be surprised that handling of the funds of railway co panies. These definitions have sioners.

> everything by certificates which do Mr. Bowser considered to be a deimprovement upon the Lemieux which had not been found very effe tions are inserted in bills of lading railway will not be able to contra "Now so far as the constitutional ous terms. There has always been aspect is concerned the position has doubt as to whether the English Rai itself out of liability by inserting one

> > Charter and Building The process of obtaining a railway

st file this will exer my. With t deposit as a guaran If they do es aut the five yea e \$15,000, 1 shall be th taking. an inves ces. Thi fterwards y the condition company borrow money without a ce ter, who if he rowing powers will see perly expended up the issuing

must show the terminii construct bran or to amalgamate go into the steamboa don by certificate, v e may refuse if he cons

The undertaking must thin twelve months a of the certificate by the wo years the company er cent of its share actual construction. ust be completed wit nd branch lines within branches. The minist or either the main line f good cause be shown his respect differs from pnder which an ex an be granted only by

There are a number with regard to the int nent of companies and ons for the protection and the public, such as lends are to be declared tal. As soon as 25 per ital is subscribed and 1 up, the minister will Board of Directors and pany to organize and pr after the company will supervision of the minist number of other clauses company's rights of and the giving of runn other lines, cattle guard and telephones, the furnis fic facilities and the prev due discrimination, all minister is promised to fully when the bill is There is, finally, a clouse express, telegraph and under the control of the The Attorney General expressed his opinion that of the best railway acts e in any assembly. Advant taken of the experien and care had been taken the whole question of rail tion and control within ners of this one bill. was that the railways

under the control of the Railways, subject to th Governor-in-Council. E been done to make the perfect as possible Mr. Carter-Cotton A Mr. Carter-Cotton said give his hearty support cause, as all knew, it which he had himself be successive government years-that they should practice of requiring ea ecure a charter by spe legislature and should for eral act under which rail constructed by those wh so. He agreed with the eral that this bill was draftsmen, because with

was embodied a scheme

lumbia would be simply

as he could see, would e to be constructed under vorable circumstances. There were, however, alls on which he disse which he thought there improvement, and as to ask the government changes in committee. persons desiring to lust make application to the Minister of Railw mission he may either There has to be \$15,00 the time of application. no provision by which to be returned to the pro the application were seemed to him to be h while he agreed that the Railways should have ers, yet he thought ther tain cases to be an app Minister to the Lieutenan Council. That would be est of all persons concer no doubt that the adoptio icy by the government great advantage to the railway construction thr olumbia. The practice lowed had been based up plan where conditions v lifferent that no company made with the condition this province. As a matt e who had studied the be convinced that the s n British Columbia duri teen or twenty years had way construction instead

Another point which quite clear was as to w Wo applications could not cally the same line. sible it certainly wou ige to bona fide prom company for some coccupy the

Under this legislation, a

finding obstacles placed

company could construct a