S...

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d Eggs, 35c. dozen.
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.....Liszt
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Save the Queen."

ARINE NOTES.

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CURE

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SICK

yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are
uable in Constipation, curing and pre-
this annoying complaint, while they also
disorders of the stomach, stimulate the
and regulate the bowels. Even if they only

HEAD

would be almost priceless to those who
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Little Liver Pills are very small and
to take. One or two pills make a dose.
ly vegetable and do not gripe or
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. In vials at 25 cents; five for $1. Sold
n everywhere, or sent by mail.

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Alien Exclusion Made an Issue

Mr. Clifford Moves Another Amendment to the Address in Reply.

Ministers Still Dumb Before Their Critics — Standing Committees Chosen.

Although it had been hoped and anticipated that the debate upon the Speech from the Throne would be disposed of by the middle of this week in the local legislature, the passage of that interesting document seems as far away as ever—and it is now altogether improbable that its consideration will terminate in a division of the parties much before Saturday. Yesterday the government adhered to the tactics pursued by their side of the house on Tuesday, declining (with the single exception of Mr. Helgesen) to contribute to the debate, or to attempt a refutation of the opposition statements and arguments; and seemingly being most anxious to secure a division in the absence of two of the opposition members in order that their strength might appear to the country as greater than it actually is. The speakers of yesterday, in consequence of this policy of silence initiated by the government, were almost wholly drawn from the opposition ranks, and included Mr. McBride, who had the floor at the opening; Mr. Richard Hall, of Victoria; Mr. Clifford, of Cassiar; and Col. Baker of Southeast Kootenay, who moved the debate's adjournment. In closing his remarks, the senior member for Cassiar presented as an amendment to the amendment, a second want of confidence resolution, based upon a condemnation of the alien exclusion law (which it will be remembered Mr. Clifford was the only member to actively oppose at its passage). The other noteworthy features of yesterday were the presentation of a petition from the mine owners of the Rossland camp, urging the repeal of the eight-hour law as having been proven ill-advised by the test of experience, and the declaration by the Attorney-General (in response to an interrogation by Mr. Joseph Martin) that he would be prepared in the course of a day or two to disclose the nature of the proceedings that will be initiated against the Kamloops Standard for its gross attack upon His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

PETITIONS.

The house having been formally opened with prayer by Rev. W. H. Barraclough—the chaplain's office having been vacant during the preceding three days—

A petition was presented by Mr. J. M. Martin, from the War Eagle, Le Roi, and twenty-one other mining companies of West Kootenay, urging the repeal or substantial amendment of the eight-hour clause in the mining act, and stating that it had operated injuriously to both miners and owners, had not been asked for by the persons most interested (viz., the miners), had operated to the exclusion of capital, was unconstitutional in its interference with contracts between employers and employed, and discriminated unjustly against the mining industry particularly concerned.

The petition presented on Tuesday by Mr. Ralph Smith, with reference to the settlement of grievances of settlers residing within the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway belt, was read, received, and ordered printed.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The leader of the opposition having signified his readiness to proceed with the nomination of the sessional standing committees in the usual way, those committees were appointed as follows:

Private Bills and Standing Orders—Hon. F. C. Cotton, Hon. R. E. McKechnie, Messrs. Kidd, Green, A. W. Smith, Helmcken, and Eberts.

Public Accounts—Messrs. Prentice, Wells, Tisdall, Hall and Turner.

Railways—Hon. R. E. McKechnie, Messrs. Deane, Macpherson, Neill, Munro, Hon. A. Henderson, Helgesen, Kinchant, Wells, Booth, Ellison, Brydon, McPhillips, Dunsmuir, Pooley and Hall.

Mining—Messrs. Neill, J. M. Martin, Hon. J. Fred Hume, Kellie, R. Smith, Helgesen, Green, Hon. A. Henderson, A. W. Smith, Dunsmuir, McBride, Eberts, Robertson, Baker and Irving.

Printing—Messrs. Kidd, Hon. R. E. McKechnie, Deane, Ellison and Booth.

Before the appointment of committees was disposed of,

Mr. Helmcken rose to inquire whether the services of all honorable gentlemen of the house had been remembered in the selection of the committees. It was not fair that all the work should be placed upon some, and others escape entirely.

The Premier observed that he had not omitted the name of any member of his party in the nominations.

Mr. Turner had no amendment to make to his nominations, all his supporters having also been included.

It will be noted that the names of Mr. Higgins and Mr. Joseph Martin are not included in the list of members of committees.

REPORT PRESENTED.

Hon. Mr. Semlin laid on the table of the house the report of the public schools for the year ended 30th of June last.

THE DEBATE CONTINUED.

MR. McBRIDE, continuing the debate upon His Honor's speech and Mr. Turner's amendment to the motion for a formal reply, said that he had at the Tuesday evening adjournment been considering the absence of reference in the address to the agricultural industry, which omission on the part of the government he held up to severest censure. It had been intimated by the government that they did not intend to neglect the agricultural industry, yet here was another evidence to the contrary. It was not infrequently the small things that exhibited the disposition of governments as well as individuals, and in this connection he referred to the matter of circulating libraries, which under the sensible and liberal provisions made for them by the late government had been found of the greatest assistance to the farmers throughout the country. The appropriation of $1,000 in former years had been found none too much; yet the present government had cut down the vote to $200, which was practically nullifying its usefulness altogether. These libraries had been much appreciated by the farmers, and the money spent thereon had been well spent. The government appeared, however, to be dead to the importance of the farmers' interests, and he would find it his duty at the first opportunity to tell the agriculturists plainly how little they had to thank and how much to condemn the present administration for.

Passing to the question of the disallowance by the federal authorities of certain measures deemed by the legislature to be in the interest of the people of British Columbia, the member for Dewdney contended that if the Dominion parliament did not make legislation strong enough or sufficiently definite to protect the interests of the people of British Columbia, it was the duty of the legislature of this province to set a good example. (Applause). He asserted that there was no greater danger menacing the industries and population of this Western province than that arising from the influx of Chinese and Japanese, and while he was well aware of the cordial relations at present existing between Her Majesty's government and that of Japan, he nevertheless regarded as imperatively necessary some such action as that contemplated in the measures that had been disallowed. Nor, were the facts plainly and honestly put before them, did he think that the Imperial government would refuse to consider the matter in the light which it bore to the residents of this province. It was quite possible that the British North America Act would in this particular case require amendment, for to him at least it seemed imperative that British Columbia should legislate up to the times. He hoped that the house would be able to show the higher authorities that the contentions of British Columbia on the subject of Asiatic immigration were only fair and reasonable, and that this being the case the Mother Country would gladly come to the assistance of the province and allow a proper measure of restriction to become law. The legislators of British Columbia were bound to redeem the promises they had made to the electors on this subject, nor cease in their endeavors until something had been accomplished in the direction of substantially remedying a condition of affairs that was very threatening to white labor and therefore to the prosperity of the province as a whole. (Applause).

With respect to the eight-hour law, he had supported this measure when it was in passage through the house, because he believed in the principle embodied. He would support any similar measure aiming to extend the operation of the principle to other industries in which the same conditions prevailed. He recognized that this was a piece of legislation that had been hurried through the house, and while he admitted that a little difficulty had arisen in the mines of the Slocan since its enactment, he believed that by the adoption of a fair, give-and-take policy, there would be no difficulty experienced in adjusting the present differences of labor and capital there, so that harmony and prosperity might return and an end be made of strikes and shutdowns. He denied that the troubles in the Slocan were fairly attributable to the operation of the eight-hour law alone. Any mine that could be styled worth working under the old arrangement of labor, would be well worth working with the eight-hour day, which had been asked for and given in justice to the workingman. (Applause). He hoped for an early solution of the question so troubling the mine owners of the Kootenay, and believed that no real difficulty would be experienced in securing such a solution, if only all interested could be convinced that this law was on the statute books to stay. They would then be prepared to face the situation, and the present very detrimental complications for the people of the Slocan would be made an end of. (Applause).

Touching next upon the alien exclusion legislation of last year, he had at the time assisted and favored the measure in question, believing it to be eminently in favor of our own people. Since that time he had had the opportunity of studying the practical working of the act in the Atlin district, and his opinion had changed considerably. He had found that previous to the passage of the act the Americans who were first in the field had staked all the important creeks—Pine, Spruce, Birch, etc.—and if the government thought that by passing this law they would help out the Canadians they had been very much mistaken. He had found that the parties most concerned in properties in the Atlin camp were Americans who would not be affected by the passage of the act. As for the feelings of the miners themselves—the Canadian miners whom it had been proposed especially to benefit—he had been asked by them who, if anyone, among the miners asked for such a law? He could not say. These Canadian miners had intimated that they could hold their own with any people in the world, and they had said that if they could not, it was about time that they learned their weakness. They denied that this measure had resulted from petitions from the miners interested. He had explained to them, as he now did to the house, that he had supported the measure as it appealed to him as a protectionist, being apparently chiefly for the advantage of young Canadians brought into competition on their own soil with the tried and experienced miners of the United States. He had also favored the enactment of this law, inasmuch as the Americans applied a precisely similar law to our miners—none could hold claims on the other side without first becoming an American citizen. Having studied the law in operation, however, he was inclined to the opinion that it would be wisdom to repeal at least that portion which now prevented the sale of mining properties to Americans or other foreigners. The present conditions simply meant an utter inability to handle properties. Lands at present could only be pre-empted in Canada by British subjects, but so soon as a British subject became the owner of land he might sell it to an alien—and who would deny or question his right to do so? He thought that this exclusion act should be remodelled to the extent at least necessary of permitting aliens to secure by purchase these mining properties, without any further qualification whatever. (Applause.)

The member for Dewdney had listened with pleasure to the expressions of loyalty coupled with reference to the present position of affairs in South Africa, and agreed that it was pre-eminently the duty of British Columbia (looking, as this province did, to the mother country for protection in time of need) to show the love and readiness to assist the old land, which all classes of the community certainly feel. (Applause.) He congratulated Premier Semlin upon his remarks in this connection, and the offer from the province to supply a contingent of mounted scouts for South Africa. He was sure that this action would redound to the credit and advantage of the province in time to come. It would show that although far removed from the cradle of the race, British Columbians were not forgetful of their duties to the Empire—that, on the contrary, they were only too willing and ready to bear their share in the responsibilities and battles of the Empire. (Applause.)

Referring to the visit paid by Lieutenant-Governor McInnes to the Atlin district, he congratulated His Honor upon the excellent impression made by him in both his private and his official capacity. His Honor had taken advantage of the occasion to personally investigate the conditions in the Atlin camp, and at a banquet given in His Honor just previous to his departure for home, had stated that his government would be immediately made alive to the facts of the situation, and that steps would be taken to amend the very unsatisfactory conditions in the north—this in itself indicating that His Honor was painfully cognizant of the fact that with respect to the administration of the Atlin district, the government had not ben alive to their duties and responsibilities. He (the member for Dewdney) proposed at some later and more suitable time, calling for the documents passing in this connection, and asking the executive of the day to explain how it was that it should have devolved upon His Honor to bring to their eyes a condition of affairs in this section of the province of which they should have been cognizant and of their own volition made a satisfactory end of. He did not doubt that His Honor had redeemed his promise to the people of Atlin; and he would shortly ask to have laid before the house His Honor's statement of the conditions in Atlin, with an explanation from the government as to whether or not His Honor had suggested a remedy for these conditions—and if so, what remedy had been proposed. (Applause and laughter from the government benches.) He regretted to see that this, as many other matters of serious import to the people of British Columbia was treated as an idle jest by gentlemen on the other side of the house, and he assured these gentlemen that it was not a jest to the people who had suffered through their utter indifference—and that these people would show by their votes at the first opportunity their opinion of a government that apparently prided itself upon its callousness to the right and interests of the public that it had been elected to represent. It surely was an alarming condition of affairs when the representative of Her Majesty found it necessary to point out to his executive their indifference.

Hon. Mr. Henderson, on a point of order, rose to protest that it was not within the right of an honorable member to make such a statement as that His Honor had lost confidence in his advisers. The presumption could not be otherwise than that if he had, he would have called upon the Premier for his resignation—that was if he were a constitutional governor.

Col. Baker observed that His Honor would necessarily take time to consider the situation—he would not properly act in indecent haste in dismissing a government.

Mr. Clifford thought that he might possibly straighten matters out a little. The Lieutenant-Governor while in Atlin had taken particular care to explain that he was there in his private capacity as a citizen.

Mr. Speaker, taking into consideration the point of order raised by the Attorney-General, held that the principle laid down by the House of Commons that it was not proper to refer to the acts or opinions of the Sovereign, for the purpose of influencing debate, must here apply to the Lieutenant-Governor—as representing the Sovereign—and that while reference might be made to the Lieutenant-Governor, such reference might not be made where, as in the present case, it was manifestly intended to influence the debate. Of course the representative of the Sovereign should at all times be spoken of with due respect.

Mr. McBride was not surprised to find that the government found the shoe pinching, as evidenced by their appeal to the Chair; and emphatically denied that he had said aught that might be construed into disrespect for the Lieutenant-Governor. On the contrary, the action taken by His Honor, and to which he had made reference, would redound to the credit of that honorable gentleman to a very marked degree. (Applause). He held that if His Honor saw that matters were being neglected in the Atlin country, and brought this fact before the notice of the government, it was directly in the interest of the people of British Columbia that they should know the facts. To would therefore take measures to place all the facts of the case before the house and the people at an early date.

Deploring the introduction of personalities into the debate, more particularly by the President of the Council in his address, the member for Dewdney characterized as ridiculous the contentions put forward by that gentleman with regard to his connection with the Nanaimo Herald. He had admitted that he was simply a stockholder in that paper—that he and the member for South Nanaimo virtually owned it—yet he had asked the house to believe that he never dictated nor knew what editorial policy it would pursue. Of course, said the member for Dewdney, it is his paper; of course it is his mouthpiece in political matters; and of course nothing is published in that paper that is not in line with his policy and that of the member for South Nanaimo.

Another very serious matter that had developed during the course of the debate was the charge that had been made against one member of the house of having violated his oath of office. This he regarded as one of the most serious matters that could have been brought to the attention of the house. It was a matter that could not but be treated with the utmost attention; and the charge having been made, he held it to be imperative that the government and the house should go further and thoroughly investigate. He hoped and anticipated that in fairness and honor the President of the Council would now either justify his charges or present an adequate and unqualified apology to the member against whom the charge had been directed. There could be no alternative course.

The member for Dewdney closed with a complimentary reference to the addresses of the mover and seconder of the reply.

MR. HALL, on rising to pursue the theme that had so interested the house during the past several days, craved a certain measure of indulgence if it should be that he erred through inexperience in parliamentary matters. He might perhaps depart a little from the strict rules of debate, and while he would not go so far astray as the Western senator who, when asked of his opinion of the government, tersely replied "rotten," he would possibly say some things about the government in a more direct fashion than the rules of debate customarily permitted. He candidly believed that the government by its own actions and course during the past year and a half, had discredited itself with the people. Many reasons for this result had been cited by the speakers who had preceded him. He did not intend to repeat these reasons, knowing that the gentlemen opposite were as sensitive as it was possible for politicians to be, and that they fully appreciated the roasting they had been getting during the last few days, if their faces were any indication of their feelings.

As he viewed the progress of political events in British Columbia, the ship of state had been transferred to the new government of British Columbia in admirable condition—sound in every part, well found and well equipped. The new officers concluded, however, that it would never do to leave what was right alone. If we don't do something new, appeared to be their argument, the people will conclude that the old officers knew their business as well or better than we do. So they forthwith commenced to make changes for the sole sake of change.

The first thing was to reduce the wages of the crew, by ill-advised legislation. They next looked to carrying favor with the owning shareholders—the electors—and neglecting to take into consideration the proportions of interest, forthwith proceeded to sacrifice the interests of a number of the heaviest shareholders in an endeavor to popularize themselves with the more numerous small holders. Next it struck them that the sails were too large. The ship made too much progress, and so they changed their land policy (represented by the sails) so as to keep things going as slowly as possible. Change had followed change, and it appeared to seamanship. In fact it appeared to him that the rudder had been shifted from the stern and put under the prow, so that instead of keeping the fair course that had been laid by the late government, the vessel was now going backward. After a great deal of difficulty this inexperienced and incapable crew had got their sails set, and very soon their bad navigation had brought them among the breakers. They saw shipwreck on the rocks of public opinion threatening them, and they held a consultation. It was decided that there must be a Jonah on board. So they had cast lots, and hit upon the navigating officer. So overboard went Quebeg pardon—the Jonah. (Laughter).

Hon. Mr. Henderson—And who swallowed him? (Renewed laughter).

The old crew certainly did not, Mr. Hall replied, proceeding then to follow to the conclusion the unhappy adventures of the distressed vessel of state. It was at present, according to his metaphor, in the doldrums. The officers could not go back on their past actions, and they could not take up the old course of progress and prosperity.

The legislation that had been brought into existence by the government of the day had been without exception hasty, crude and ill-advised. Its sole purpose seemed to be vote-catching—pandering to the labor interest at any sacrifice of interests of principle. The eight-hour law, for example, had possibly been well meant, would possibly have been well advised had all the mines to which it applied been developed and on a paying basis—but these mines of Kootenay were not. The majority were as yet in the prospect stage; and while the eight-hour system had been applied to old working mines long before the majority of the present parliament ever thought of entering public life, it was not a system that should be applied in British Columbia while many of the mines influenced were as yet in what might be termed the experimental stage. When once mines had been got down to a solid working basis the mine owners themselves would be the first to introduce the short hour system, for they had no wish to have their work performed by tired, listless men—what they wanted and the work demanded was the work of men of energy. The effect of the hasty eight-hour legislation of last session would be to keep out capital and operate injuriously to labor, for the workingman was as sure to follow capital as the sun to rise in the east.

The alien law, too, had kept thousands of dollars from being invested in the province. It had kept thousands of dollars out of the hands of our merchants of the Coast cities, and the transportation companies. Even the Klondike trade had arisen, it was primarily enjoyed by the merchants of Seattle. Then the superior facilities and superior goods of Victoria and Vancouver merchants commenced to impress themselves, and last year this city and Vancouver (Victoria more especially) had commanded the great bulk of the trade. A similar profitable trade with Atlin would have arisen but for the intervention of this ill-advised legislation—legislation that was very like other examples of the present government's want of forethought. The effect of the laws of last session had been to bring about conditions in the Kootenay of which residents of the Coast had no conception. The formerly busy and prosperous towns of Kaslo and Sandon were dead. The mines of the Slocan were idle, and the workmen dispersed. The Kaslo & Slocan railway, had this year, for the first time, failed to pay interest on its bonds, owing to the operation of the eight-hour law. Sandon was a deserted town. Kaslo, too, was dead—

"When did Kaslo die?" interjected Mr. Green.

Mr. Hall did not quite catch the hon. member's remark.

"The hon. gentleman would like to be informed," said Hon. Mr. Henderson, "as to the date of Kaslo's decease?"

As to the fact of Kaslo's deadness, Mr. Hall said that he had received the information from a gentleman just arrived from that part of the country, a good observer, and a man in whom the fullest confidence could be placed.

"Was he a mine owner?" asked Mr. Green.

"He is not; he is a contractor," said Mr. Hall. "I will give his name to the hon. member in private if he desires it."

Continuing, the member for Victoria city, observed that certain members of the Government party had made a great clamor about benefiting the workingman. They had shouted their efforts in his behalf; they were never tired of telling what they had done and were doing for him. He was himself a believer of organization for self-protection among workingmen, of whim he employed a considerable number. He had noticed, however, that it was not the skilled workingman—the true workingman—who made the most noise. The walking delegate and self-appointed champion would usually be found standing up and defending labor with one hand while he struck at some corporation with the other, having been put in a position to take this stand chiefly through the influence and effort of some rival corporation. Where the fidelity to the helpful corporation ended, and devotion to the workingman began was a hard matter to determine.

Referring next to the answer of the colonies, and British Columbia in particular, to Britain's call in her time of trouble, he was glad to find that distance did not weaken the ties binding all parts of the Empire together in one mighty union of strength. Indeed the distance appeared rather to strengthen the unity of the Empire. It was possible that the time would come when the disintegration of the Empire should be accomplished, but that time was as yet far distant. He regretted to see that while all patriotic Britons the world over were hastening to give expression to their loyalty, there should have been found some even in British Columbia's capital so dead to their duty to the country as to express sympathy with the enemy of the nation. Disrespectful language had been used by them in reference to our flag and government—and this by people who had lived in our midst for years, enjoying all the advantages and protection of British laws—equal rights with those who were true and loyal British subjects. Their present disposition to espouse the cause of the foe might possibly be ascribed to the stolid, undemonstrative nature of the typical Britisher, which would permit such a thing. They should not, however, make the mistake of supposing that British people were indifferent, because they did not talk much. It was, he was glad to say, unnecessary to-day for any Canadian to supplement the definition of his nationality with the statement that he was a British subject. To be a Canadian now meant also that one was a loyal subject of Britain. (Applause.)

Reverting again to those who recently had been so unwise as to express here in Victoria sympathy with the Boers in their present campaign, he would say that while some were certainly deserving of sternest censure, quite a number had been mentioned who did not deserve such classification. Of these Mr. Voss was one. He had known this gentleman for years, and could vouch for him as a loyal and whole-hearted subject of the Queen. Another whose name had been mentioned was Mr. Young of the New England bakery. With regard to this gentleman, it might be said that actions were more eloquent than words. It was only the other day that he had been speaking to Mr. Young in connection with the proposal to send a company of mounted scouts from British Columbia to the Transvaal, and that gentleman had remarked that he had no horse that he could offer to the country for use, but that he would be glad to subscribe $100 to the equipment fund at the first opportunity. Perhaps enough had now been said of this pro-Boer talk in Victoria. Those who had been indiscreet had been plainly told to keep their mouths shut, and the hint would probably suffice. But no one should apply blame and censure where it was not deserved.

MR. CLIFFORD held that the speech had by this time ben pretty well threshed out, while he regretted to find that the proportion of chaff to the wheat was overbalancing. He regretted, too, to find the government members keep silence, refuse to defend the actions or explain the mis-deeds of the ministry, and allowing all the speaking to be done by the members of the opposition.

"That's the chaff," said Hon. Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Clifford could not understand why the members of the government if they had any self-respect, or any conception of their duties should have remained silent. It appeared to be that they recognized that there were two seats on the opposition side temporally vacant, and they were anxious to let the motion go to a snap vote before these seats could be filled, and so appear before the country with a fictitious majority of three.

Taking up the speech, all save the first paragraph, was found to be full of ambiguity. He heartily agreed with the expression of loyalty; but he did not think the next paragraph went quite far enough. It was very well, no doubt, to "hope and pray" for British success, but he would go further. He believed of course in the efficacy of prayer—he had prayed himself, although without always satisfactory results. (Laughter.)

Mr. Macpherson—The prayers of a righteous man availeth much. (Renewed laughter.)

Yet, continued Mr. Clifford, he was inclined to think that prayer should be coupled with something more specific and definite. He agreed with the famous personage of history who had said: "Put your faith in God, but keep your powder dry." It was satisfactory to see that British Columbia was ready to add her contribution to the defence of the Empire, but he had that instead of sending 100 men, as he understood was proposed, British Columbia should have offered 200 or 400, equipped and delivered anywhere that the authorities might say. The member for Cariboo (General Kinchant) has estimated that the cost of equipment would be about $250 per man. The company of 400 could therefore be got up for $100,000; and he thought this would better express British Columbia's practical loyalty.

As for the trouble in the Transvaal, it should not be forgotten that the Boers were the aggressors—that every battle had taken place had been on British soil—that the Boers were invaders. Had the Boers remained in their own country, and announced their determination of repelling any British forces that invaded their country, the situation would have been entirely different. The question of sympathy for the foe that had been introduced into the debate had possibly been made altogether too much of. (Hear, hear.) He did not believe that it really amounted to anything, while it was not unnatural that people of the same birth and language as the Boers should to a certain extent sympathize with them by reason simply of these facts. He wished to emphasize, however, that it was not the Boers who had occasioned this trouble in the Transvaal. It was the small and dangerous ring of speculators in Pretoria, who had misled the simple Boer farmers, and brought them into antagonism with Britain under a misconception of the true situation. The question now became one of maintaining British supremacy in South Africa—and Britain would not lose.

As for the suggested amendment of the educational system, he would certainly be in favor of some changes. He did not altogether agree with the present educational plan. He quite agreed that it was the duty of the state to give every child an educational start in life, but this start should not go beyond the teaching of the rudiments of a true education. All should be taught reading, writing and arithmetic; but with the proposition that all should be given the higher or scientific education by the state, he could not concur. The acceptance of this system had the effect of too greatly relieving parents from responsibility. They thought that if they sent their children to the public school their duty ceased. He held that the public school course should really be only the preparation for the fuller education to follow.

With respect to the difficulties in Atlin and their adjustment, he could not agree with the government that they had sent the commissioner there as soon as his presence had been necessary. If Mr. Justice Irving had arrived on the ground a month or six weeks sooner, much good work would have been accomplished and the interested claim owners would have been able to get to work sooner and been better satisfied. Explaining in detail the nature of the Atlin grievances, the senior member for Cassiar added his meed of praise for Judge Irving's impartial and intelligent adjustment of the existing difficulties, the giving of the 100 feet to all claim owners being especially commended as satisfying everyone. He would be glad should the house decide to pass a vote of thanks to Mr. Justice Irving, to most cordially support it.

Touching upon the proposed measure of justice to Ominecа, he referred briefly to Omineca's known richness, and expressed pleasure that the government should at last have decided to do something toward promoting the district's development and prosperity. In regard to the Kitimaat wagon road scheme, it was certain that it would open up a country rich in mineral deposits, both in copper and gold ore. He had himself received information that the surface showings in this region were far superior to those met with in the Rossland district; and it was the unanimous opinion of mining men who had been in the section in question that it would when opened up prove to be one of the richest mineral areas of the entire province. In view of these opinions he could well understand how it was that a company was willing and glad to build a road 120 miles in length and hand it over to the government in exchange for 30,000 acres of wild land in alternate sections. He had indeed never heard of a more liberal offer to private enterprise in all his experience. The company would abundantly recoup themselves by getting in families—half miners and half farmers—from Colorado to Seattle, to settle on their lands, and he was thoroughly satisfied that the scheme was a good one. These Americans knew more of our Northern country and its resources than we did ourselves. The road would be completed in less than two years, and he hoped that the bill when it was brought down would receive the support of the entire house. It was in reality not a land grant, for the land was at present not worth more than $2 an acre at the most, while the company offered to hand over the road, costing $120,000, or in other words to pay $4 an acre for the land.

He was surprised at the apparent determination of the government to try and carry on the public business with a majority of one. Were he in such a government he would demand an immediate position of the government? Simply that it was at the dictation of any member—any one member could demand what he liked—the government dare not say him nay. The manly course for Premier Semlin to have pursued would have been to resign. He had known Mr. Semlin for thirty years, and could not understand why he had not taken this course. He knew that Mr. Semlin would not be guilty of anything dishonorable. It had been said that the Premier was incapable—he would agree that he was incapable, of a dishonest act. (Applause).

With respect to the alien exclusion law, he was opposed to it, as he always had been. He had not, however, anticipated that its ruinous consequences would have proved so far-reaching. It had driven capital from the country and in every way proved prejudicial to the best interests and progress of the country. He had, therefore, in conclusion, to move, seconded by Capt. Irving, as an amendment to the amendment:

"That in view of the legislation by the government last session enacting the alien law, having proved highly detrimental to the mining industry of the province by obstructing the introduction of capital and by hampering the development of our mines.

Premier Semlin thought that such an amendment should have gone upon the order paper, and applied to the chair for a determination of this point.

Mr. Speaker—supported by Mr. Eberts and Mr. Booth—contended that this had not been the custom, and ruled otherwise. The motion was again put, and

MR. HELGESEN resumed the debate. He, like Mr. McBride, had spent considerable time in the Atlin district since the house last met, and he disputed the arguments and conclusions of that hon. gentleman. He blamed all the Atlin grievances on the late government for not having made proper provision for the springing up of a great mining camp. The difficulties having, however, arisen, delay in getting a commission was occasioned through the difficulty in securing a judge—

Mr. Martin—There was no difficulty in getting judges.

Mr. Helgesen—Why, Mr. Martin told me so himself.

This Mr. Martin denied.

Mr. Helgesen—Well, that's what he said, Mr. Speaker, at any rate. (Laughter.)

It was at this point that Mr. Speaker asked the indulgence of the house to return to Premier Semlin's point of order. He found upon investigation that the amendment to the amendment could not be considered in order, and quoted May in support of this conclusion.

The point was debated by Mr. Eberts, Mr. Pooley, and Col. Baker, decision being finally reserved, and the debate on the address proceeding.

Mr. Helgesen, resuming his address, which had been subject to frequent interruption, claimed that when he had come down from Atlin to represent the conditions of that district, he had found that the conditions did not justify blame being laid at the door of the government. He referred briefly to the inefficiency of the Atlin letter service; and passing to Mr. Martin's speech characterized it as fully of spiteful personalities. Mr. Martin appeared to constitute himself a law unto himself"—who he would, he let live; and whom he would, he slew." (Laughter.)

Mr. Martin had the previous session set himself against legislation for the keeping out of Italian labor, which was just as much a menace to British Columbia as that of the Chinese. On the Chinese question, Mr. Martin had taken an entirely different stand. He hoped that the hon. member would be more consistent in future, even if he could not explain his inconsistency in that matter.

Dealing next with Mr. Turner's financial criticism, the senior member for Cariboo cited many figures in development of his argument that the late government was wasteful and extravagant; and by adding many balances for individual years together he arrived at the conclusion that there was a deficit of something over four million dollars when the Turner administration went out of power. He contended that should the opposition succeed in defeating the government on a vote during the present session, they would be in quite as bad a position as the government at present, inasmuch as they would then have only a majority; and declared that the watch-word of the Turner party was not expansion and progress, but, "Oh, for the flesh-pots of Egypt." (Laughter.)

"That applies equally well on the other side," called back a member of the opposition.

Next Mr. Helgesen spoke with fervor on the subject of loyalty, declaring that while he had himself been born under another flag, he was now a British subject, heart and soul, and proud to be one, for he recognized, as the whole world must, what Britain had done for the world in the promotion of civilization and humanity, justice and liberty. He concluded with a declaration that the country was not dissatisfied with its present rulers; and an admonition to the opposition to look out for the proselytes who had lately joined their ranks—as they might be found to be weapons that cut both ways.

COL. BAKER congratulated the member for Cassiar upon having worked a miracle. He had actually induced one of the government following to rise in defence of his party! He had actually found one member on the opposite side of the house sufficiently courageous to say something in reply to the charges that the members of the opposition had distinctly preferred during the past few days of the session. The hon. member for Cariboo had made a mistake in attributing to the late government responsibility for the difficulties that had arisen in the Atlin country. How could this be the case, he asked, when the Atlin district had only become known to the world at the eve of the late government's retirement.

He congratulated the mover and seconder of the reply upon their efforts, congratulations being doubly deserved when consideration was given to the extreme meagreness of the speech. It was not unnatural that their addresses should have necessarily contained much extraneous matter; in fact, without such matter it would have been impossible for anyone to make much out of the document in review. He also felt impelled to congratulate the framers, or framer, of the speech itself, for its extreme barrenness. It was like the bag of wind hung up for athletes to practise their muscle upon. The opposition had done their best with it, but it was really a puerile thing to attack.

With respect to the great war now being waged in South Africa, it was extremely satisfactory to him to find that all parts of the vast Empire were joining in the chorus of loyalty and devotion to the Empire in the time in, not its danger, but its trouble. He was glad, too to see an indication in the speech that a vote would probably be asked to permit of the despatch of a British Columbia contingent to assist in fighting the foes of our common country. If this were done, as he hoped and anticipated it would, he trusted that the British Columbia contingent would retain its individuality, and not be merged into the corps of all Canada. It should be kept as a British Columbia unit, and he was confident that every fraction of that unit would discharge its duty well, and that British Columbia would hear of her men in a manner in every way favorable.

He impressed upon the government the fact that time in this case was most important. The very best endeavors should be made to induce the Dominion government to explain itself definitely, so that British Columbia might go ahead and get her men ready for the front. Even after definite word was received from Ottawa it would take no inconsiderable time to prepare the force; and before it could be despatched—at least six weeks. Time was therefore of the utmost importance, and he hoped that the government would urge upon the Dominion that a definite answer must be had quickly.

Another side of the question presented itself—all were aware of the splendid patriotism shown by Lord Strathcona. The authorities would do well to be careful in order that confusion should not arise, it having been intimated that the Strathcona Horse would be recruited largely from British Columbia. It would not do to have two recruiting sergeants going through British Columbia at the same time. There would be a tendency to confuse the two, and undesirable results would be almost inevitable.

At the same time there seemed no good reason why the two forces should not be in a manner merged, and go to the front as a British Columbia corps of mounted rifles, whatever it might be called. This was a suggestion that might be of value. The first step, however, appeared to be the establishment by the province of headquarters; and next the selection of officers. British Columbia should retain the control of organization; she should send her own men and her own officers too.

The hands of the clock at this juncture pointing to a few minutes to 6, the debate was adjourned upon Col. Baker's motion.

THAT KAMLOOPS LIBEL.

Mr. Martin, before the formal motion for adjournment, asked if the government had as yet decided what course would be pursued with respect to the gross attack in the Kamloops Standard, to which he had on Monday directed attention.

Hon. Mr. Henderson replied that the matter was under consideration, and the action decided upon would be announced within a day or two at the most.

The house then adjourned.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Deane—To move that "Whereas among the volunteers who have gone ro may go to South Africa to serve with Her Majesty's forces during the present war there are some persons who are the holders of claims under the provisions of the Mineral Act; and whereas it is desirable that the said claims should be protected during the absence from British Columbia of said persons while serving Her Majesty as aforesaid; be it therefore resolved that the mineral claims of any British Columbia volunteer serving Her Majesty in the present war be not open to location by any person during the absence of such volunteer upon said service, nor for a period of twelve months after the close of said war."

By Mr. Ralph Smith—In connection with and subsequent to the petition which he presented to the house providing for the appointment of a select committee, to consist of Messrs. Booth, Helmcken, Helgesen, Neill and the mover, to inquire into the grievances of certain settlers in Nanaimo district and within the E. & N. railway belt, as set forth by petition and otherwise, and as contained in the reports of a Dominion commission of inquiry, appointed by the federal parliament to investigate the whole of the cases, and which has since forwarded the above reports to the provincial government, with an opinion that a settlement ought to be made by the provincial government—with power to send for persons and all necessary papers, and to call for and examine witnesses under oath.

By Mr. Helmcken—For a return of the order-in-council remitting the fine imposed upon Mr. W. M. Galbraith, of Duncan, for an infraction of the Game Act, together with copies of the information and depositions taken at the trial, and of all material used or forwarded in support of his appeal by the said W. M. Galbraith or anyone in his behalf, to obtain the remission of the said fine.

By Mr. Helmcken—For itemized returns of all expenses in connection with the floating of the loan authorized by the Provincial Loan Act, 1899.

By Mr. Helmcken—To move that in view of