PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

THIRTY-FOURTH DAY. Thursday, March 19th, 1896.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at two o'clock, prayers being read by Rt. Rev. Bishop Cridge.

SUBSIDIZED PHYSICIANS. Mr. Adams asked the hon, the minister of finance: 1. Was any money paid to Dr. Hugh Watt for medical and surgical attention to a Chinaman who was vounded while resisting arrest near Beaver Lake, district of Cariboo? 2. If so, how much? 3. Is it the policy of the government to allow subsidized physicians to make charges for services rendered to the government?

Hon. Mr. Turner replied; To the first question: Yes. 2. \$142. 3. When subsidized physicians are called in at the request of the government the government pays them the same as other phycians or surgeons performing similar duties.

The house went into adjourned committee on the Cariboo Trunk Road bill, Mr. McGregor in the chair. After some discussion as to the of proof of an infraction of the act, Mr.

Kitchen moved that the committee rise, as it was evident that the bill was only a botched up one. The motion to rise without reporting

the bill was carried. The Cattle bill was read a third time and passed and the report on the Line Fences and Water Causes bill was ad-The Royal Cariboo Hospital bill was

committeed, Mr. Huff in the chair, and was reported complete without amendment. The Benevolent Societies bill was also committed, Mr. Cotton in the chair, and was reported complete. Hon. Mr. Turner presented a return showing that the travelling expenses of

ministers during the past year were as follows: Mr. Vernon, \$137; Col. Baker, \$463; Mr. Turner, 237; Mr. Martin, \$40; Mr. Eberts, \$387.75; Mr. Davie, \$2040; total, \$3304.75

A second return was presented in answer to a motion by Mr. Kidd showing arrears of taxes in December, 1895, as follows: 1. Wild land, \$47,069.47; 2. Personal property, \$50,098.19; and a third return showed the crown grants granted in Kootenay under the Mineral act.

The wages bill was next committed, Mr. Booth in the chair. In answer to an observation by the attorney-general as to the probable far reaching effect of this enactment, and an inquiry as to whether it was meant to apply generally or to a particular estate, Mr. Helmcken, who has charge of the bill, said it was meant to apply to a particular estate, but to obviate the objection that it was to refer generally he would ask that the committee rise and report progress so as to afford an opportunity of amending the matter.

Mr. Williams could not see why such legislation should be introduced; it was retroactive, and therefore not desirable. He would move in amendment that the committee rise without reporting the

Hon. Mr. Pooley supported the motion of Mr. Helmcken to report progress, so as to give him an opportunity to explain. Mr. Williams wanted to know why Mr. Helmcken could not explain now as well as any other time,

Mr. Helmcken's motion carried. BILLS ADVANCED. Mr. Kitchen moved the second reading the Municipal act, which, he said, consisted of a consolidation of the act as it is at present.

The second reading was carried with

Mr. Kitchen also moved the second reading of the Municipal Elections act, which, he also explained, was a consolidation and revison of the present law by the commissioner, Hon. Mr. Davie, and a committee of the house.

This bill was also read a second time without debate. Mr. Macpherson moved the second reading of the Literary Societies bill,

which was passed unopposed. The Wild Horse bill, second reading, was moved by Mr. Adams, who spoke of the evils which it was intended to remedy in aiding in the extermination dangerous class of animals.

Mr. Williams said that as there was game act-(laughter)-before the house, it would be just as well to insert a clause in it allowing the shooting of these animals at certain seasons.

Mr. Smith said the object of the bill was good, but there was one drawback about it which might have serious results. It is difficult to get close enough to these bands to shoot any of them, and if persons did get near enough it was a question whether he could be certain that the animals were wild.

- Hon. Col. Baker said there should be some means of identifying the animals, otherwise it might lead to a great deal of trouble. It would probably be a good idea to have the skins of such animals taken to the government agent, after they were shot, to ensure there being no mistake about it.

Mr. Semlin would vote for the bill, although as it stands its operation would be liable to entail endless litigation and difficulty to the settlers. It is often not possible to tell whether a horse is branded until he is got into the corral, besides which there are hundreds of them running over the ranges unbranded which it would be just sport to many of the Indian boys to shoot. Unless the horses are broken they cannot be approached near enough to be able to see whether they are branded. There should either the government agent or some other recognized authority to deal with

the matter. Mr. Booth and Mr. Stoddart would be quite willing to support the bill if brought within reasonable bounds.

The bill was read a second time. ASSESSMENT ACT.

explained the changes that were pro-Mining men all thought that it was only

the debate. Hon. Col. Baker said that his colleague had merely explained the changes intended to be made in the bill. It was erroneously thought by some that the prospector was to be taxed under this bill. He would not be taxed unless he took out ore, and supposing he took out one hundred tons of ore, he would have to pay 30 cents a ton, \$30 for one hundred is; it could be no hardship on him. Col. Baker said that in the cases of Le Roi and Blue Bell mines, 8 cents a ton would be about the limit. As to the coal royalty, it was only mines in operation previous to 1884 that were exempt. Mines opened since then and to be opened would have to pay the 5 cents a ton. approximately 21/2 per cent. so that coal is taxed far more heavily than the ores now proposed to be taxed. The bill would also have the effect of reaching the banks and other large companies not touched at present, and it would principally affect those people with large

Mr. Semlin objected that the house was asked to discuss measures which were not before the house. These amendments, the finance minister said, he intended to bring in; they were not yet in Mr. Kitchen also entered an objection,

Mr. Sword, rising to a point of order, asked if Col. Baker had not adjourned or the net returns by the imposition of that it was not in the interest of the was important to see that, instead of money than could be helped, and it were not averse to helping any project ing it. In fact it would be better to the country to vote against this bill. withdraw this bill altogether and allow the tax to be on mineral properties the mines are joint stock properties whose shares are quoted at certain figures in retrenchment before proposing to inties, it would be found, were assessed at a system of economy been commenced anything near the amount that the years ago the country would not now be shares are quoted in the market. The in the peculiar predicament that it is, finance minister would also find that and although the country had returned there are in the hands of parties prop- the government to power, and seemed to erties not yet developed or ore produc- support their policy of extravagance, ing, yet of considerable value from their thought that the minister of finance ents, must vote against the second readwould be wise, considering the nature of this bill, and the very material difference which he proposes to make by his amendments, to withdraw this bill and re-introduce it if necessary. The house will be better able to judge, after the estimates are brought down, whether this increased taxation is necessary,

port this bill. In any event the amend-

bill if for no other reason than that the house that they intended going in for ing retrenchment, should begin yet members of the opposition side of On the whole, Mr. Sword the house, in justice to their constituing of this bill. Mr. Hunter would support the bill, as

reason for imposing further taxation, especially in the mining centres. Look- be able to bring in a better and more ing at the expenditure that the goverment has made, in the Kootenay co. nhis increased taxation is necessary, try especially, in opening up the coun-Mr. Williams referred to the reluct try by roads and other conveniences, it that Vancouver paid in \$284,000 more ance of the government members to sup- was only reasonable to expect that that than had been expended in the district section should make some return. The by the government. He also condemn ments spoken of were not before the government had given to the Nakusp & ed the government for not bringing house and therefore the house could not | Slocan \$647,000 in cash, to the Nelson | down the estimates so that the house discuss them It was placing members & Fort Sheppard railway in land 615,- would be able to deal intelligently with

this tax overed all, they were satisfied. ed, and on this bill being made public, to intelligently discuss this bill till it was known for what purpose the money the bonds had been thrown over. The to arrive at the net returns. ed, and on this bill being made public, to intelligently discuss this bill till it was known for what purpose the money was required. Mr. Williams had that it. Mr. Kellie also claimed that the

Coming to deal with the bill

what may be called a royalty, and it country to trust them with any more They sought their rights, of course, but increasing the revenue, it was decreas- would therefore be in the interests of that was intended to benefit another section and so, incidentally, the whole Mr. Kitchen would vote against the province. To be consistent, these hon. members from the more thickly popu same as other properties. Many of these government had not yet shown the lated districts who are always preachthe market, but none of these proper- crease the burdens of the people. Had itself, Mr. Kellie said the government which he personally did not believe to be a fair tax, but a delegation of mining men had been here and, after interviewthemselves satisfied with the tax, and he therefore could not oppose it; but he a ton to mine ores and the profit was \$5 discriminate aganist low grade proper it could be shown that there was some ties. However, Mr. Kellie thought that after a year's trial the government would

had come down with a tax on mining ing the government, had expressed did not think it fair that, if it cost \$15 or \$6.a ton, the mines should be taxed one per cent. There was a tendency to equitable tax than is imposed by this

Headache, yet Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in Constipation, curing and preventing this annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured Ache they would be almost priceless to those who suffer from this distressing complaint; but fortunately their goodness does not end here, and those who once try them will find is the bane of so many lives that here is when we make our great boast. Our pills cure i while others do not. while others do not.

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Consumption.

(Mention this paper.)

only the supporters of the government but also the members of the opposition win say that they are justified in draw ing on the amount they have raised b loan instead of increasing the burdens

of the people. Mr. Cotton said that the announce ment of the imposition of this tax on mines had already had a serious effect on transactions in course of negotiation by outsiders.

Hon. Mr. Turner-Mining has gone

Mr. Cotton said he referred to money going into mines. The quotations mining shares in Trail creek and other districts have gone up because the put is larger; new and larger ma ery has been put in those mines late but it could not be said that the fir cial policy of the government had any thing to do with the increase in price of those mining shares. Mr. Cot ton then moved the adjournment of the debate.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE Mr. Williams rose to a question privilege with reference to his quest regarding the parliament buildings reported in the Colonist. He wanted know why the \$10,000 had been to the Bank of British Columbia on the

reading of the mineral bill, which was carried without debate. The Alberni water works bill wa read a third time and the house well into committee on the Rossland water works bill, which was reported complete with amendments. The house then adjourned.

Hon. Col. Baker moved the second

NOTICES OF MOTION Mr. Forster-For a return showin ture since its formation: the fees colled and the amount paid into the tre

dividual; the number of meetings l Hon. Col. Baker-To introduce a b to amend the Bureau of Mines Act. Hon. Col. Baker-To introduce a to amend the Insane Asylums

1893. Mr. Williams-Whereas the value the salmon catch in British Columb now exceeds three million dollars annu ally; and whereas it is generally ceded that the improvement in the r on the Fraser river has been large due to the hatchery; and whereas the sum of over \$23,000 is annually coll ed for fishing licenses, while the cost building and operating hatcheries comparatively trifling; and where there has been a failure in the run salmon on the Skeena for three yea in succession; and whereas the imm ate establishment of numerous hatche ies in the province is a matter of importance: Therefore be it resolve that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor sentations to be made to the Dominio

REE AND JUST BALLOT BUX QUAL RIGHTS FOR AL PROVINCIAL RIGHTS RESPONSIBLE COVERNMENT FREEDOM OF ELECTIONS FREEDOM OF SPEECH FREEDOM OF THE PRESS NO SECTARIANISM PREJUDICES

DEFENDING THE SACRED GROUND

the finance minister to say what amendments he proposed to introduce in com-

Mr. Sword then proceeded to discuss the bill, which he said could be divided into two parts; one to raise the rate on property already taxed, and the other to take off the tax already imposed on mining property and replace it by a tax on the gross output of the mines. With regard to the first part, the house could scarcely be expected to pass over it thoroughly under the present circumstances. Certain returns had been asked for which were not yet down, and until they had been placed before the house it was impossible to tell how far the taxes already imposed had been collected, or in other words, it was not known whether the finance minister had made the best of the opportunities at his disposal, and therefore the house could not say whether it was right to place this extra money in the government's hands. Then leasehold property should bear a fair share of the taxation with other property. Mr. Sword pointed out the striking absurdity of the act as to what constituted wild lands, it being simply provided that if \$2.50 an acre worth of improvements be put on In resuming the adjourned debate on land in the neighborhood of populous lumbia which maintain an agent-general the Assessment act, Hon. Mr. Turner cities. There was nothing whatever in London do so at a vastly smaller posed to be made in the original meas- taxation. As to the second part of the gard to the increased receipts to be deure, principally the reduction from two act, dealing with the taxation of mines, per cent. on the gross output of mines it would be very interesting if the finon the dump to one per cent. on the net ance minister would inquire what are by the government. As nearly as he thing. returns from the smelter. This, he said, the rates at which the mines are asess- could figure it, the additional amount appeared to meet with the approval of ed at present, and what would be the that would be received from personal cities got more from the government than mining men generally, and would at the revenue derived were these mines asproperty, wild land and income would they had paid and accused members of same time produce some revenue from sessed at their fair market value. Now, only amount to some \$45,000. The de-

and Col. Baker said that the amend- in a very unsatisfactory position in so 000 acres at say \$1 an acre, equivalent this bill, and in any event held that it ments would be brought in in commit- far as considering the merits of the bil to \$615,000; Columbia & Kootenay, was dangerous to place the additional was concerned. The estimates should 200,000 acres, the Kaslo & Slocan 60,-Mr. Cotton said the debate was prac- have been submitted, too, snowing that 000 acres, making a total of \$1.522,000, tically adjourned so that the estimates it is actually necessary to increase the added to this was the expenditure by might be brought in at the same time taxes before the power is given by these the government on roads, streets and and members could consider the whole bills to the government to do so. It bridges for four years, amounting to matter at once. It was not possible, had been said by the provincial secre- \$247,331, making a total of \$1,769,331 say whether this bill was necessary or per capita tax of British Columbia was The government was amply justified by less than any other province, but then the result. After some further discussion Mr. the per capita expenditure, Mr. Wil Speaker ruled that it was in order for liams showed, was greater than any other province in Canada.

Mr. Williams proceeded to deal with ernment, instancing the expenditure for one hundred per cent., and real estate when the revenue from Westminster agent-general, when a point of order other than wild land, twenty per cent. district had far exceeded the expendiwas raised by Mr. Eberts. A discus- If it was necessary to increase the tax- ture. sion arose on this question, and the ation, wild land and not personal pro-Speaker ruled that members must con- perty, or even income should be made

against such a course it was perfectly till to point to cases where economy could be practised thus to that extent rendering increased taxation unneces-

Mr. Cotton pointed out that in the until the budget is introduced, when every member has information before him as to the necessities of the government in seeking the additional revenue. Mr. Williams said he was simply replying to the arguments made by the provincial secretary, in defence of the office of agent-general, in his speech before the debate was adjourned. Mr. Williams submitted that this proposed the land at the time of assessment the taxation was not necessary if the gov- from the various cities and the money land shall be exempt from wild land ernment practised economy, and he expended in them, when tax, but it is absurd to say that \$2.50 | showed from official figures that the one an acre of improvements shall exempt or two provinces outside of British Coshown to justify this addition to the expense than this province. With re-

was increased twenty per cent., personwere several others of the same kind.

istics relating to the revenue received Mr. Kitchen rose to a point of order stopped Mr. Williams. Mr. Speaker said that in view of one hon, gentleman having been allowed to

proceed with the assent of the house, rived under this bill, he did not think it was difficult to see how the speaker they would be as large as anticipated | could stop another for the very same Mr. Kellie proceeded to show that the

the mining country, on which so much the reason for bringing forward this bill ficit last year was over a million; deduct opposing this bill. It was true the govright and fair that they should be taxed ing a bill having that express purpose, on mining to make the revenue balance had been well expended. It was unfair, to a reasonable extent. There had been and afterwards find that it actually de the expenditure. So that, with this in however, to charge up. as the hon, memwere to be liable for personal property changes have already had very serious still going to be a large deficit unless given to railways in Kootenay. The good times to borrow money to carry on praying that he will cause argent representation of the property of the prope and real estate tax in addition to this, effects on mining deals which were bebut when it was explained to them that ing transacted. Mines had been bond- It was, however, a very difficult matter thought of, and it was not giving any-

money asked for by this bill in the hands of the government before knowing how they are going to expend it.

Mr. Kidd also deprecated the course of the government in pressing this measure before bringing down the estitill the estimates were brought down, to tary that, even with this addition, the for roads, streets, bridges and railways. mates. As to the remarks of the hon. member for West Kootenay (Mr. Kellie) Mr. Kidd said that Westminster dis-Mr. Kennedy referred to the ob- trict had nursed Kootenay when she was jectionable feature of the bill, the pro- a child unable to do anything for herposal to increase taxation. Wild land self; she had acted as a sort of elder sister to Kootenay. Then it must not the extravagant practices of the gov- al property fifty per cent., income about be forgotten that there were many years

Mr. Cotton also referred to the impossibility of dealing with this bill without fine themselves to the merits of the bill. to contribute the additional amount. It the estimates. If the estimates were It was argued that the bill dealt with would have been better if the estimater before the house, members could coman increase in taxation and in speaking had been brought down before this bill pare them, and if it was shown that had been submitted for discussion, then. they had entered on a practice of strict relevant to the subject matter of the if it was seen that the government had economy consistent with the efficiency shown a desire to economize, it was just of the public service, it might perhaps possible that some of the members on make a difference in the view to be takthe opposition side of the house would en of this bill. In England it sometimes withdraw their opposition. A good many happens that, when through some temsalaries had been increased last year porary cause, the revenue falls below British house of commons, any change and a great many extra payments to the ordinary expenditure, the governproposed to be made in taxation are left officials made. The parliament buildment impose some kind of a temporary ings had been held up as a boon to taxation to meet the case. But in this the total cost of the board of hortical the workmen in these hard times; no case there is nothing of this character doubt they were, but he had been talk- before the house, and members are left ing to one of the stone cutters, who to judge the bill on its merits, so that, ury; the travelling expenses of each said he was from Chicago and that he without the information asked for, the was going home as soon as he was government could not be surprised if and attendance at each. through with his job. No doubt there the members of the opposition had decided to vote against the bill. They Mr. Kellie proceeded to discuss stat- would certainly be placed in a most extraordinary position if they supported this bill, and then, when the estimates were brought down it was shown that the government intended to continue in

on the same ground as Mr. Eberts had their extravagent course. He asked why was it necessary to increase the taxation as proposed when there is such a difference between the revenue and expenditure of this province, not merely what might be called the extraordinary expenditure, such as the parliament buildings. No one would deny the great commercial depression which has affected every place and every one, but if this is going to be only a temporary depresion, the house might say to the government: "We do not approve of this exhad been spent by the government, was to raise more revenue, but the gov- the increase and there would be over crument had spent a great deal of tra taxation, but we will authorize you ernment would make a mistake in pass- \$700,000 to be made up from the tax money in the Kootenay district, but it to make a draft on the balance of that loan, which you got last year, to tide over this extraordinary occasion. If a misapprehension that mining men creased the revenue. The proposed creased taxation, it seems that there is ber for Comox. Mr. Hunter, had, land the government thought it proper in

ARTERS Sick Headache and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea. Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing

amount ass listrict for th 896 under sec act, 1891, amend THIRTY-FI Friday.

ing additional fis

r. Helmcken-To

d the Investm

. Speaker took ock, prayers bein op Cridge. ASSESSM Mr. Cotton resum sment- act, say elad to hear some d nent of their taxation at a ti and it very difficu ssible, to pay the inted out that the government had sidered the measure down, as the suhs fully showed. It ter to tax mining p thers, as it would o have to work

leal of difficulty w in carrying it out. would be very diff fair basis of valuin and in that way hardship, especially which are worked advantages. In fact the clauses nine to to be remodelled talk about the ma Kootenay mines h but the actual mi good returns could angers. Evidently looked upon Koote from which they but it would be fe Kootenay for some stead of squeezing taxation that coul an example Mr. Co. of Colorado. Who the union there w from a paper, a c shall be exempt period of ten years option of the Mr. Eberts-Will gain; you dropped Mr. Cotton-All

claims shall be ex except the net prod provements, for a from the date of constitution. ... (La Mr. Cotton proceed tax Kootenay now to come, would have ing instead of ber asked if this tax co personal property Mr. Turner said Mr. Cotton said

a shifting around the change would also compared the of Montana and C British Columbia, ing Vancouver from ing received more expenditure. As couver paid three Mr. Graham als government for own the estimate if it was shown th sity existing for the that there was go made of it, it was position would cha garding the propo

Mr. Hume said cretary had yester believe that there mines, when such None of the coal are paying a tax. opinion that the ment could do wo bill levying a tax hear.) The whole ed to be against looked to to pay province. He p much of a minin hon, member for he (Mr. Hume) ha ter from his con this bill. He did ple were not in f want to pay their Hon. Col. Bake coal mines were cents a ton.

Mr. Kitchen-D that! Hon. Col. Baker the coal mines co der the act. Mr. Hume-Ho you received f 1884?

Hon. Col. Bake

been no mines

be taxed. (Lat make a retroacti Mr. Kitchen-V already operating in the act to p grants are given same as the gol tax them just th Mr. Forster sa left to be said There was one which he would few moments. timit the real est by ten per cent, personal property cent. What was difference? He pain by showing the government perty tax only. municipalities tl revenue from bot government evide desirability of ra cipalities than th form rate of inc that'er was unju of increase out was less than 2

palities 50 per o protest against fairness. Refer Mr. Forster said sympathy. The vised. Their of the giant from I to have a develo mensurate with cle. The memb

go to school un

sponded more n