PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Third Session of the Seventh Parliament.

THIRTEENTH DAY.

THURSDAY, Feb. 24.

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

Major Mutter presented a report from the printing committee, recommending that certain returns already presented to the house be printed. The report was adopted.

Mr. Booth, for the private bills committee, recommended that the petition of Alexander Begg & Sons be received; and also reported the preamble proved in the bill to amend the Lillooet, Fraser River & Cariboo Gold Fields, Limited, Act, 1896. The report was adopted.

Mr. Helmcken presented a petition from Alexander Begg & Sons for a bill to incorporate a railway from the Stickeen river to Teslin lake. The petition was read and received.

Mr. Walkem moved, seconded by Mr. Helmcken for a detailed statement of the liability of the province for $22,596.14, and for which a vote was passed in the session of 1895-96 under "schedule B"; and also of any further liability, if any, which might have been included under the same vote.

The motion was carried.

The house went into committee on the Farmer's Institutes Cooperation Act, Mr. Rithet in the chair.

In regard to section 4, which provides for the importation of seeds, plants and animals "of new and valuable kinds." Mr. Semlin wanted to know what was "a new animal."

The Premier replied that the expression was taken from the Ontario act, the province from which the leader of the opposition came. For example he understood that the alpaca sheep, camels and other animals new to the country had been introduced into the United States and perhaps the leader of the opposition might want to put elephants on his own farm. (Laughter.)

Mr. Semlin replied that a "new animal" seemed to point to something that had hitherto not been known in the scale of creation.

The Premier, however, did not read the section in that light; he looked upon it as meaning a breed of animal new to this province.

In section 13, the sub-section (d) providing that the institutes had to hold at least three regular meetings a year was struck out, it being decided that the matter would be best settled in the rules governing the institutes.

Section 15, which named the different branches in which the institutes could carrying on cooperation, was laid over at the request of the Premier, as was also section 19, providing for agricultural associations amalgamating with the central institute.

The committee reported and will sit again on Monday.

Mr. Cotton presented the Kootenay Power and Light Company bill. It was read a first time and referred to committee.

The house went into committee of the whole on the Speedy Incorporations of Towns bill, Mr. Macpherson in the chair.

When the provisions relating to the qualifications for mayor and aldermen were reached, the Attorney General read a telegram which had been received from Rossland to the following effect:

"On behalf of ourselves and other ratepayers we request that the incorporation act of Rossland should not contain any provision requiring a residence qualification for mayor, but only freehold qualification. Resident qualification will disqualify a number of good men we want to see in the council."

(Signed) R. J. Beasley,
Ross Thompson,
C. O'Brien Reddon,
C. F. Jackson,
E. J. Bowes,
John R. Cook.

The Attorney-General said he thought it proper to present the telegram to the house so that the members might take action or not on the request as thought best.

The committee decided not to alter the qualifications.

The limit authorized to be borrowed this year for necessary works by Rossland and Nelson, was fixed at $50,000, but some discussion arose over what should be the limit for Three Forks.

The Attorney-General stated that the population of Grand Forks was stated to be 600 to 800, and growing daily.

Mr. Stoddart had heard there was some opposition by people in the proposed limits of Grand Forks to incorporation.

Mr. Kitchen did not see the hurry for incorporating Grand Forks—the necessity was not pressing as in the cases of Rossland or Nelson. However, he was opposed to granting the permission to borrow $20,000.

Mr. Graham understood that there had been opposition to the incorporation of Grand Forks by some of the people, but that day had received a resolution passed at a mass meeting at Grand Forks withdrawing the opposition, and in that event he did not see why incorporation should not be granted.

Mr. Speaker, for the information of the committee, stated that a few weeks ago he had been present at the town where a meeting had declared unanimously in favor of incorporation. Since then some opposition had been shown by persons who did not want their property to be taken in. He had understood now that the elimination of that particular section of land from the proposed limits had overcome any objections. It was an act of economy to the province to relieve itself of the responsibility of having to look after the sanitary condition of these new towns which were growing very rapidly and needed very necessary public works.

The section was passed, and the amount which Grand Forks may borrow was placed at $20,000.

Section 12 read: "It shall be lawful for the council to dispose of sewage by depositing the same at some point outside the limits of the municipality, in such manner as may be found expedient, and from time to time to expropriate, take and hold such lands, both in and beyond the limits of the said municipality, as may be considered by the council to be right and necessary for the purposes aforesaid."

Mr. Hume moved to insert as a subsection: "It shall be lawful for the said cities, and they are hereby empowered at any time hereafter, to take and divert from any stream or streams, as may be found most suitable, and to appropriate and use sufficient unappropriated water for all public purposes of the said municipalities, and from time to time to construct all works that may be necessary for efficiently using such water, and to erect dams, raceways and all works which may be necessary for the maintenance of such water privileges, and to exercise all the power mentioned in the Water Privileges Act, 1892."

The amendmen was carried.

Hon. D. M. Eberts when the schedule was reached, stated that he had just received a petition signed by R. E. Lemon (chairman), and C. E. Race (secretary), of a meeting held at Nelson on February 17, asking that lot 150, group 1, be added to the town.

Mr. Hume remarked that the people who were living in the addition spoken of did not want to be incorporated.

Mr. Kellie also opposed putting in this addition. The delegates from the City of Nelson were now here and were the proper people to deal with. It was very easy for a few people to obtain a meeting and send down resolutions which perhaps were of little weight.

The amendment to add lot 150, group 1, was lost.

At the request of Mr. Graham an amendment was introduced by the Attorney-General eliminating lot 380 from the bounds of Grand Forks. The amendment was carried, and had the effect of reducing the area of the town from 1,057 to 737 acres.

The committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments, the report being set down for consideration at the next sitting.

Mr. Kellie presented the bill to incorporate the Revelstoke, Trout Lake and Big Bend Telephone Co., Ltd.; the bill was read a first time and referred to the private bills committee.

The Premier, in moving the adjournment of the house till Monday, said that the government had so many pressing matters before them for consideration that the recess was very necessary.

The motion was carried, and the house adjourned, after receiving a petition presented by Captain Irving, asking leave to introduce a bill to incorporate a railway from the head of Taku inlet to Teslin lake.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

By Mr. Semlin—For all correspondence between the government or any member thereof and any person or persons in reference to the rental of the government reserve in Pleasant Valley, Cariboo district.

Mr. Kitchen—To move on consideration of the report of the "Speedy Incorporation of Towns bill" to strike out the provision giving Grand Forks power to borrow $20,000.

Mr. Helmcken—To move for a copy of the contract relating to the building of the Point Ellice bridge, which collapsed last year, and of the evidence given before the coroner and the findings of the jury on the holding of the investigation into the cause of the accident which occurred on the 26th day of May last past, together with the reports, if any, made during the time the bridge was under the control of the government by any officer of the government or any person for the government relating to the strength and carrying capacity of such bridge.

Mr. Helmcken—To move for a special committee consisting of Messrs. Booth, Mutter, Cotton, Sword and the mover, to revise the rules and orders of this house, with power to report.

By Mr. Helmcken—To ask the Premier, "Has the government, or any member thereof, taken any step (and if so, what) with the corporation of the city of Victoria, or any member thereof, and the Consolidated Railway Co., or any member thereof, leading to or suggesting a settlement of the claims of all persons who sustained injury or damage by reason of the Point Ellice bridge accident on May 26 last.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

Mr. Semlin was quite anxious to know about the new kind of animals which the Farmers' Institute bill speaks about as likely to be introduced into the province. It is odd that the presence of the gentleman on his left did not suggest hydraulic rams to utilize the water rights on which he grows so eloquent, or that of the gentleman on his right did not suggest the sort of lambs which he is so anxious shall not be fleeced by "promoters"; or that the gentleman behind him did not suggest "bulls and bears," and that the whole atmosphere of the legislature and the lobby did not suggest stock.

The Farmers' Institute bill was under discussion in committee yesterday, and as far as progress was made the amendments were only verbal. The most interesting part of the measure will be taken up later.

The bill to provide for the incorporation of Nelson, Rossland and Grand Forks went through according to the understanding with the representatives of those towns. The amount which the first two cities, as they will become as soon as the Governor assents to the bill, may borrow for improvements is $50,000. Grand Forks is limited to $20,000. There was a little opposition from Mr. Kitchen to this part of the bill. Mr. Graham wanted the corporate area of Grand Forks cut down nearly one-half, and it was done on the assurance that it would meet the wishes of the people.

Apart from these two bills the proceedings of the afternoon were of a routine nature. Adjournment was taken until Monday.

VANCOUVER'S SMELTER.

TORONTO, Feb. 25.—The World says it has learned a Toronto syndicate has been organized for the purpose of erecting a smelter in Vancouver. Two outside companies, one of headquarters at London, Eng., and another centered in Denver, Col., has been dickering for some time with civil authorities at Vancouver, but Toronto men hope to beat them out yet.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The house committee on commerce to-day presented a favorable report on the bill authorizing the construction of a bridge across the St. Lawrence river on the line of the Northern New York railway.

WATER RIGHTS.

TO THE EDITOR:—The discussion in the house to-day over the water rights question showed plainly that a majority of the members of the assembly favor the passage of a general law. Notwithstanding the contentions of the Provincial Secretary, the present laws relating to water rights are not general in their scope. If they are, why is it that the application of the city of Kaslo for a right to divert water from Kaslo river for the uses of the municipality was refused by the assistant commissioner of land and works for West Kootenay district, and why did the same official refuse to record a water right applied for by a company actually engaged in putting in waterworks for the town of Trail? The same official also refused the application of the Noble Five Mining Company, at Cody, in Slocan district; the water, in that case, being wanted to run an ore concentrating mill. There must be some ambiguity in the present laws, or why are so many applications for water rights for widely different purposes refused? Were the practical workings of the question understood, the finance minister would not hesitate a day in bringing down a general water privileges bill for the enactment of such a bill would be a great source of revenue. As an illustration, the electric light company at Nelson uses 350 miners' inches of water in developing 100 horse power. Aside from repairs to dam and flume, the cost of operating the plant, so far as motive power is concerned, is less than two dollars a month. Were the company forced to use steam for motive power, the fuel bill alone would be $200 a month. The Hall Mines smelter at Nelson uses water from the electric light company's flume, and the company saves not less than $30 a day by so doing. Yet neither of these companies pay the province a dollar for the privilege of using water. The following companies operating in Slocan district use water for motive power, namely, Byron N. White Company, Noble Five Consolidated Mining Company, Slocan Milling Company, and Sandon Water and Light Company. They pay nothing to the province for the privilege, although by using the water they save thousands of dollars annually. The unfairness of this method of disposing of water rights is more manifest where other companies operating in West Kootenay are taxed twenty-five cents for every cord of wood used in generating steam with which to operate hoisting works and air compressors.

NELSON.

Victoria, Feb. 24.

THE CHEAP MONEY QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR:—It is a matter of much regret that the "Farmers' Alliance of B. C." is not yet before our legislature with their scheme for obtaining for the farmers of this province money at the lowest possible rate of interest. It is to be sincerely hoped that this most important of all legislation for the material welfare of our fair province will not be overlooked an instant longer than is necessary for its due consideration and formulation.

I feel sure that if our legislators took this matter seriously into consideration, weighing the enormity of our loss by what may truly be styled the worst form of "Absentee Landlordism," and the simplicity and safety of the remedy that can be applied to it, that a very few days would be sufficient to place on the records of the house the necessary legislation.

It is said that our mortgage debts, secured by land, amount to $12,000,000 all told, and I consider this estimate very low. On this amount we are paying 8, 9, 10 and 12 per cent. Allow the average rate to be 9½ per cent., which is also a moderate estimate, and it will be seen that there is 6 per cent. on $12,000,000 or $720,000 per annum more than should be, and which the government can, without the slightest injury to its credit, save to this country, going out of our province. Now sir, I would ask, is there any question before the house this session, or, may I add, has there ever been a question before any previous legislature of British Columbia, involving such an enormous (annual) saving to our people? And what possible excuse could our legislature give for refusing to take up those mortgages by borrowing on the security of our lands, which, if good enough security for the class of men from whom farmers now borrow, to lend the amounts they have on them, are ample security for Shylock himself? All that is necessary for the government to do is to furnish the executive with the necessary powers; to concentrate these securities into one great trust, and to guarantee the transaction. For my part I can see no excuse.

It may be said that it will lessen the government's borrowing capacity for other purposes. On the contrary, I say, it would strengthen its powers by enhancing its security, because it would place in the hands of the government $24,000,000 worth of property; which, with the impetus that farming would receive by virtue of the great saving affected, and which general business and trade would receive by virtue of the money thus saved being put in circulation at home, would increase in value to $35,000,000 or more likely to over $40,000,000 on which would be borrowed the moderate sum of only $12,000,000.

Again the sinking fund which at 2 per cent. would be necessary to collect and put by annually to redeem the debt and enable the farmers to redeem their farms would amount to $240,000 yearly which in case of the government requiring money for improvements; the need for which at our present rate of development will annually grow greater; the government can borrow this sinking fund of the farmers, thus acquiring ready money at a convenient point, and by paying the current government rates of interest on it will help the fund. Thus shall we be mutually assisting one another as all properly governed people should.

It has been said by a member of our legislature that our farmers are thriftless and lazy. This with reference to the farmers of the section to which I belong, the beautiful Okanagan, and for which I am specially pleading I emphatically deny. They are the most industrious and economical class of people to be met with in British Columbia.

It is also said that the farmers of Ontario work harder than ours and that they too, pay heavy rates of interest. May I ask the parties offering these objections whether they have ever heard the term "North American Chinamen" applied to the sons of these over-burdened farmers of Ontario? If they have ever used this term with respect to these worthy people, in fact? If so, they may reserve now for their own neighbors, who are engaged in farming and who are worked as hard and with as little hope for the future as were ever the original N.A.C., the flattering term.

It is also claimed that if our farmers were relieved of their overpowering burden of interest, they would take advantage of the government and refuse to pay their interest.

So much the better for the government, if at all capable of any kind of business; because the land can be resold at, at least, double the mortgage and can be rented at three times the interest (not, of course, including sinking fund. But to obviate any possibility of this kind, is it not easy to appoint appraisers and collectors altogether independent of political influence. We are not troubled much with people refusing to obey our judges, and yet they are only men and appointees of the government.

I have heard it said that some of our farmers are mortgaged for more than they can carry. Not so. If they were mortgaged for more than they can carry at the rate of 5 per cent., or even 7 per cent., and were paying as now 9 per cent. and 10 per cent., with a heavy income tax, they could not survive a single year.

It is further said that miners have as good a right to look for cheap money from the government as farmers. Yes; and let me add, so have gamblers, but their security is not quite the same, nor are the conditions in any particular alike.

Last, but not least, it will be said that merchants will call for cheap money; yes, and they will get it. They will get their overdue bills quickly paid by the farmers (a matter the benefit of which can hardly be calculated); they will get their full share of at least $500,000 per year saved by this scheme which is now going to our foreign landlords; they will get the money of these foreign landlords, which will be handed back to them, with thanks, at very low rates of interest. In a word, they will derive more advantage (if any difference) from the scheme than the farmers themselves.

Leave the matter to a vote of the merchants and townspeople and it will be carried by acclammation, or I am mistaken. If the F. A. is remiss in its duty the government cap do nothing better than to take the initiative in this all-important matter.

Hoping I have not intruded on your space, I have tried to be brief, and perhaps have succeeded too well in that respect.

D. RABBITT.

Vancouver, Feb. 23, 1897.

AN OLD-FASHIONED FEEDER.

"He made his way steadily through boiled beef, roast mutton, and baked hare; after which he fed well on a capon. Nor did he forget to drink with it all. He had his head in the glass five times as long as any of them, and drank no less at once than a quart of Rhine wine."

So says Roger Ascham of Charles V. of Germany, at one of the famous dinners given by the Knights of our fair province. History mentions that His Majesty retired from public life sodden with gout. We can easily believe it.

Eaters and drinkers like him are rare now-a-days. We can't gorge and swill as our ancestors did. Yet rheumatism and gout are much more common with us than they were with them. *Why?*

Perhaps Mr. George Hodson will help us to answer. He says:—

"In October of 1889, I took a severe cold. After this I was attacked with rheumatic gout, which affected my feet and ankles. I was laid up for a month, during which time I suffered severely. The parts were puffed up, red and painful; the joints being stiff.

"Every now and then I had these attacks *for years*. During this time I lost a deal of work. Besides the acute pain my general health gave way, and I suffered from shortness of breath.

"After eating I had much pain at the chest and stomach, my food giving me no strength. From time to time I consulted a doctor and applied fomentations to the painful parts, but I only got ease for the time.

"I took medicines of all kinds that I heard of, but got no real benefit until my mother-in-law, who lives at Oxford, told me of the benefit she had derived from Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and recommended me to try it.

"After taking this medicine for a short time I found immense relief; the attacks became less frequent, and I was comparatively free from them. I felt much better and stronger of myself. I have since kept Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup in the house, and taking an occasional dose I keep in fair good health. I have recommended the medicine to many persons in this town, and if you wish to publish this statement you have my permission to do so. Yours truly, (Signed) George Hodson. 111 St. Edmund's Road, Northampton, October 22nd, 1895."

Rheumatism, gout, and what is called rheumatic gout, are variations of what is for all practical purposes the same thing—an inflammation of the joints, muscles, or both, arising from the deposit in them of uric acid, which is itself one of the products of an overworked, or a congenitally weak, digestive system. This acid, being virtually insoluble in water, and a sharp, poisonous crystal, is both a mechanical irritant and a blood poison.

In time it attacks the heart and kidneys, etc., where it combined with the alkalies of the body—produces lesions which cause chronic organic disturbance or, worse still, fatal destruction of tissue. All this, I beg to remind you, comes of long-continued *stomach indigestion*, with its result and accompaniment, a sluggish and inefficient liver. For the human body is not a congeries of distinct organs, but *one intro-active organism*. When, therefore, the stomach goes wrong they *all* go wrong. So every twinge and pang of the rheumatic-gout family can be traced *straight back to the broken or ruined digestion*.

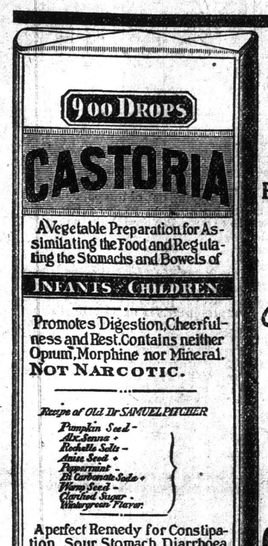
Mother Seigel's Syrup cures indigestion, dyspepsia and torpid liver; and *that* is why it cures gout, rheumatism, and rheumatic gout. It goes down to the root of the trouble.

We have more of this disease than our ancestors had, because they, being strong and vigorous, escaped many of the effects of their own excesses. But they made us the heirs of the feeble stomachs and the inactive livers; and the modern Englishman is punished for the dietetic sins of his fathers. That was probably the case with Mr. Hodson; and there are thousands of other sufferers who will be glad to hear what he says in praise of Mother Seigel's Syrup as a remedy for their common ailment.

Phil. C. Jackson of the British Columbia Canning Co., Deas Island, is in the city for a few days and staying at the Dominion.

Chas. Wilson, Q.C., Vancouver, arrived last night, in connection with some of the appeals coming before the sitting of the full court which opens on Monday. He is registered at the Driard.

The recent fancy ball in Glasgow has resulted in raising a sum of £2650 on behalf of the Scottish Artists' Benevolent Association.



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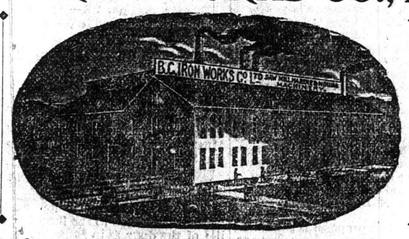

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