PROROGATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

Interesting Proceedings Yesterday at the Concluding Session of Local House.

WEST KOOTENAY BILL KILLED

A List of the Various Acts Passed During the Several Sittings.

Monday, March 12th, 1906.

AT 2 o'clock p. m. the house met, and after prayers by Rev. Canon Beanlands, Mr. J. A. Macdonald moved the following resolution, of which he had given notice:

"This house declares that the order in council of May 3rd, 1904, dealing with 10,000 acres of land on Kaien island was not passed in the public interest."

He did not propose to go over the ground again affecting this order in council, but it was his duty to point out that no attempt had been made to defend the issuance of that order, but instead the government had taken refuge behind a woman. It would be better for it to be understood that when adventurers, either male or female, took part in a public transaction they would have to bear the full benefit of criticism and take the full responsibility of their conduct.

Hon. R. McBride said that when discussing the minority report, on the other hands, he had said that there was not a particle of evidence to justify the suggestion contained in the phrase "adventurers, male and female." The only inference to be drawn is that Mrs. Anderson stood in some improper relation to the government. Such a suggestion was absolutely false. Mr. Macdonald knew this and was trying to get out of the difficulty by drawing a red herring across the trail. The government had granted a special committee, which had made the fullest investigation, and the result was that no charge of any kind had been prepared—only these unfair innuendoes. He was satisfied that the country would not support the attitude of the leader of the opposition, but would accept his statement that,

A Fair Bargain

had been made. The motion was defeated by 20 to 12. Yeas—Drury, King, Brown, Murphy, Jones, Evans, Oliver, J. A. Macdonald, Henderson, Paterson, Hall, Cameron—12. Nays—Davidson, Hawthornthwaite, Williams, Tatlow, McBride, Cotton, Clifford, Bowser, Fraser, Ross, A. McDonald, Green, Fulton, Garden, Taylor, Wright, Young, Shatford, Grant, Manson—20.

Mr. Henderson moved the following resolution:

Whereas a subsidy of 20,000 acres per mile was granted to the British Columbia Southern Railway company (then known as the Crow's Nest and Kootenay railway) by chapter 40 of the statutes of 1890:

And whereas, in pursuance of said recited act, the following lots of land were granted to the said railway:

(A.)		
4,588	112,640,	18th August, 1899
4,589	408,893,	18th August, 1899
4,590	518,400,	3rd October, 1901
4,591	358,400,	3rd October, 1901
4,592	799,800,	3rd October, 1901
4,595	627,200,	3rd October, 1901
4,596	870,400,	3rd October, 1901
	3,755,733	

(B.) From which the following must be subtracted:	Acres.
Sold and agreed	76,417.73
Dominion government	50,000.00
Morrissey townsite	371.00
Fernie townsite	640.00
Crow's Nest Coal Co.	215,120.00
	342,548.73
Leaving a balance of	3,413,184.00

And whereas by section 11 of said act it is provided as follows:

"11. The lands acquired by the company shall not be subject to taxation unless and until the same are used by the company for other than railway purposes, or leased, sold or alienated, so long as such lands shall be offered by the company for sale and settlement upon liberal terms, to the satisfaction of the lieutenant-governor in council, and the capital stock and all property, other than lands aforesaid, shall be free from provincial and municipal taxation until the expiration of ten years from the completion of the railway."

And whereas by order in council 781, dated December 6th, 1899, by arrangement between the railway company and the province, it was provided as follows:

"On the recommendation of the chief commissioner of lands and works, and under the provisions of 53 Vic., chapter 40, his honor the lieutenant-governor of British Columbia, by and with the advice of the executive council, doth order as follows:

"That the terms upon which the British Columbia Southern Railway company shall offer their lands for sale and settlement shall be the same as are provided for by the land laws of this province.

"That a certified copy of the enclosed report of the chief commissioner of lands and works be forwarded to Mr. L. A. Hamilton, the local commissioner for the British Columbia Southern Railway company."

And whereas, the said 3,413,184 acres are not offered for sale under the conditions set out in the said order in council, which has, as a matter of fact, been absolutely ignored by the said company:

"And whereas, no portion of the said lands has been assessed or taxed as required by the laws of this province:

And whereas, notice has been given the government of the day that this is the actual state of affairs, and they have not taken any action or steps to assess or tax such lands:

And whereas, further, by chapter 8 of the statutes of 1896, a subsidy was granted to the Columbia and Western Railway company of certain lands on certain conditions therein named:

And whereas, under said act 543,312 acres of land were conveyed to the said last-mentioned railway company, which said grant was dated October 3rd, 1903:

And whereas, said lands were to be taxed when alienated by the company or agreed to be sold:

And whereas, the said railway conveyed or agreed to sell 271,656 acres to one F. A. Heinze, of Butte, Montana, as appears by the public records of this province, by agreement March 18th, 1898:

And whereas, this government came into office June 1st, 1903, and have neglected their manifest duty since that time to tax the lands of the British Columbia Southern Railway company and the lands of F. A. Heinze:

And whereas, the loss of revenue to this province by reason of this neglect is upwards of $450,000 since the first day of June, A. D. 1903:

Be it resolved, that the present administration is unworthy the confidence of this house.

A Great Corporation

Mr. Henderson, in speaking to his resolution, said it was no wonder that taxation had increased throughout the province when the greatest corporation in the province was improperly exempted from the payment of taxes on more than 3,000,000 acres of land. He referred to the lands of the British Columbia Southern. This was not only unfair, but a violation of the statute laws of the province. The lands referred to had not been offered for sale from the time of their granting up to the middle of 1904. Under the terms of section 11 of the subsidy the company had forfeited their rights to exemption. In 1904 the company issued a map showing the lands and the terms on which they would be sold. Many of the conditions stated therein differed widely from the conditions laid down in the Land Act. No provision was made for the pre-emptor or settler. Further, the minimum area to be sold was laid down in the map as 160 acres of an unvarying square or rectangular parcels. By the Land Act it might be eighty acres, and not necessarily square. This was a great disadvantage in a long, narrow valley, compelling the settler to buy a lot of useless land in his square block. Under the Land Act the timber goes with the land; the company reserve the timber except for the erection of settlers' buildings, and fees are imposed on timber used for any other purpose. This was a flagrant violation of the provisions of the Land Act. Such onerous conditions were never contemplated by the Land Act. It was true that the rolling stock was not taxable until ten years had expired, but that should not apply to the lands. The president of the C. P. R. had valued these lands at very high figure—$16,000,000 at least.

Shuswap & Okanagan Railway

The same company had been treated more than leniently in the matter of the Okanagan and Shuswap railway, and this session, by destroying the only railway that could have furnished competition with that road, the government had lost the last opportunity to recover their losses on the Okanagan and Shuswap railway.

This question had been brought under the notice by the Associated Boards of Trade. Everyone else in the province was overtaxed in the interest of the C. P. R.—even the children.

Hon. R. McBride said that the position of the government was very settled on this subject. The resolution may have been read by the member for Yale, but it looked like the handiwork of Mr. Smith Curtis. This government was not responsible for the legislation of the British Columbia Southern; they were, however, responsible for collecting taxes on all lands legally taxable. These lands were to be exempt as long as they were offered for sale on government terms. The chief commissioner had arranged that they should be so offered. Complaint had recently been made that the railway company had violated those terms. This charge was now under investigation, and he could assure the house that every dollar of taxes would be collected, both past and present, that could be legally demanded.

With reference to the alleged sale of 271,656 acres to Mr. Heinze, it was denied by the railway company, but that allegation was new being inquired into, and the government would be governed by the result, and if it were found that any such agreement had been entered into

The Assessor Would Collect

the taxes. As to the Okanagan and Shuswap railway, the government had done nothing that would destroy the Midway and Vernon. If the courts ruled that that company had commenced work in time, the subsidy would be paid; the matter was now "sub judice." As to the alleged $1,500,000 proposed subsidy to the C. P. R. for building into the Similkameen, it was never proposed by the government to do so.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald said that if it was not brought before the house it was agreed in caucus to do so.

Hon. R. McBride: "I repeat that the government never proposed anything of the kind."

Mr. John Oliver said the premier had made no attempt to answer the charges brought forward by the member for Yale. He had admitted that the government were responsible for collecting the taxes; that they had failed to do so was the charge against them. It needed no lengthy investigation to determine whether legal taxes had been collected. If it was a fact that the C. P. R. were offering the lands on any other terms than those provided by the Land Act, then the lands were taxable. That was the whole question. All the privileges of bona fide settlers had been swept away. Under the land laws a surveyor had the power to classify the lands, and a settler had to take a lot of poor land in order to get some good land that he wanted. In some cases he had to take as much as ten acres of valueless land to get one acre of good. He knew this because he had had the experience himself. East of the Cascades a settler could acquire with his land (under the land laws) all the timber, if it did not exceed 5,000 feet to the acre. The C. P. R. regulations demanded a heavy toll on this timber, in addition to the government dues.

Under Investigation

The premier had said that a year and a half ago the chief commissioner had investigated the matter. A 3-cent postcard would have gained the information, and so far nothing had been done, unless it was to decide as the result of that investigation that the railway company were not liable to taxation. It was because of the inaction of the government that the opposition had to bring the matter forward on the floor of the house. This matter had been going on for years.

The president of the C. P. R. had stated under oath in this building that Mr. Heinze owned half the lands granted for section 1, aggregating more than 500,000 acres. How then could the government contend that these lands were not taxable? How was it that for years back there had been no audit of the C. P. R. books as between the government and the Okanagan and Shuswap Railway company? He challenged the premier to deny that it was proposed in caucus to bonus the construction of the Kootenay Central and the Spence's Bridge and Nicola railway, to the extent of $1,500,000, this money to go to the C. P. R. He charged that all along the line the government were favoring the C. P. R.

Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite demurred to the statement that members supporting the government were bonusing the C. P. R. The whole question of the land grant was that the railway company had built the road, had earned the grant and were entitled to it. The land of the province did not belong to the workingmen. It belonged entirely to the capitalist class, and the whole squabble was which section of the capitalist class should have it.

Would Buy a Muzzle

If he talked as often and said as little as the member for Delta he would spend his sessional allowance in buying a muzzle for himself. This was no issue; it was humbug simply to try to turn out the government.

Mr. Parker Williams said the opposition was inconsistent. For two years they had been clamoring for a railway policy, and now they were charging the government with having a railway policy, for that was what it meant land, land grant, land subsidy. That was railway policy in this province. The Liberal party were not to be trusted a bit better than the Conservative party, if as well. Look at the way the Liberal party had dealt with the 50,000 acres of the Crow's Nest reserve. They had selected land on the mountain tops that was valueless and inaccessible. It had relieved the Crow's Nest company of taxation, and that was all. The land would remain to the end of time free.

On a division the resolution was voted down by 20 to 12. Yeas—Drury, King, Brown, Murphy, Jones, Evans, Oliver, J. A. Macdonald, Henderson, Paterson, Hall, Cameron—12. Nays—Davidson, Hawthornthwaite, Williams, Tatlow, McBride, Cotton, Clifford, Bowser, Fraser, Ross, A. McDonald, Green, Fulton, Garden, Taylor, Wright, Young, Shatford, Grand, Manson—20.

The following bills were read a third time and passed:

A bill intituled An Act to provide for the establishment of a provincial stockbreeders' association, and for the introduction, exhibition, improvement, purchase and sale of pure bred live stock.

A bill intituled An Act to amend the Victoria Terminal Railway and Ferry Act, 1901.

A bill intituled An Act to amend the Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1900.

Municipal Clauses Act

On the consideration of the act to consolidate and amend the Municipal Clauses Act, Mr. Evans moved his "local option" clauses, already printed, which were taken as read. He urged that local option was becoming more general daily, and as the principle was applied to almost every other class of legislation there was no reason why it should not also apply to the sale of liquor. This only went a step further than the proposal already before the house to curtail the number of licences.

Mr. Drury endorsed the resolution. He thought the clause requiring the petition for a plebiscite to be signed by 25 per cent. of the voters on the list was a sufficient protection for all interests. The principle of the referendum was gaining favor, and it should not be excluded from application to the drink question.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite said for two hundred years laws had utterly failed to benefit the public. No man was low enough to sell liquor except under compulsion. Take away the profit and the production would cease. He objected to tinkering with local option.

The motion was defeated by 14 to 11. Yeas—Drury, King, Brown, Jones, Evans, Oliver, Henderson, Paterson, Hall, Cameron, Manson—11. Nays—Davidson, Hawthornthwaite, Williams, McBride, Clifford, Bowser, Fraser, Ross, Green, Fulton, Garden, Taylor, Young, Shatford—14.

Mr. Ross moved an amendment "that this act come into force on June 14th, 1906." Carried.

The report was adopted and passed the third reading.

House Passed Supplies .....

Hon. Mr. Tatlow moved the report on the supply bill, which passed.

Mr. Garden moved the third reading of the Vancouver Incorporation Act. Agreed.

Mr. Fraser moved the adoption of the report on the West Kootenay Power and Light Company's Act.

Mr. J. R. Brown moved in amendment to strike out section 3 as adopted March 10th and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"3. The lieutenant-governor in council shall have the right from time to time to fix the maximum and minimum rates which may be charged by the said company for power, light and heat supplied, or which may be supplied, by the said company to the inhabitants, cities, towns, mines, smelters, railways and tramways for any purpose whatever in the districts of Yale and Kootenay, and the said company shall not have the right or power to charge or collect any rate or charge in excess thereof."

In supporting the amendment, Mr. Brown said that the question was a difficult one to deal with, and he thought the interests of the Cascade company would be sufficiently protected by giving the lieutenant-governor in council power to fix the rates.

The amendment was defeated by 14 to 11.

The Pacific Coast Fire Insurance Company's Act passed report stage.

Mr. Cameron moved the report on the Municipal Elections Act.

Mr. Hall moved the following as new clauses:

The said chapter 68 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

It shall be unlawful for any municipal election to provide to or for any elector, or to or for any inhabitant of the municipality, or any person being within the municipality, from the day of nomination until after the day of said election, any cockade, ribbon, or other mark of distinction, and no person shall use at any municipal election flags, banners, placards or bills in any way concerning or having reference to the municipal election, whether carried by hand or upon vehicles at any such municipal election. Any person committing an offence against the provision of this section shall, in addition to any other punishment or consequence provided for by statute, be liable upon summary conviction before a justice of the peace to a penalty not exceeding $50.

It shall be unlawful for any candidate for election at any municipal election on the day of election to distribute in or in the vicinity of any polling station, cards or printed matter containing representations of ballot papers or ballot marks, or any invitation to vote for any candidate or candidates.

The report was adopted. The bill was read a third time and passed.

Steam Boiler Inspection

The house went into adjourned committee on the Steam Boiler Inspection Act, with Mr. Murphy in the chair.

Mr. Evans moved to add at end of sub-section (5a), section 3, line 3, the following words: "and any farm engine and boiler up to twenty horse-power."

The amendment passed.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite proposed that drying and heating plants be exempted. He then moved that the committee rise, but this was voted down by 14 to 6.

Mr. Oliver moved that where heat was only kept for the purpose of maintaining steam a fifth-class engineer might be left in charge of boilers. This was carried without a division.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite read a number of letters objecting to the bill, and then moved that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again. The motion was lost.

The house then adjourned to 8:30 tonight.

Evening Session

The House resumed at 8:30 on the report stage of the West Kootenay Power and Light Company's Bill.

Mr. Bowser moved to strike all words out of section 3 after the word "council."

3. Before exercising any of the rights powers or privileges by this Act given or conferred, the West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited, shall obtain the sanction of the lieutenant governor in council, who shall impose such terms as may be just and equitable, after taking into consideration the rights, powers, privileges and priorities, if any, now enjoyed by any other company at present operating and supplying light, heat and power in the said District of Yale.

The amendment carried by 15 to 14.

Mr. Fraser then moved that the Bill be reported with amendment. This was agreed to. Mr. Fraser then wished to take the third reading. Mr. Wright, the member for Ymir objected—with the result that the Bill was killed.

The House went into adjourned committee on the Steam Boiler Inspection Act with Mr. Murphy in the chair.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite moved to amend section 3 by permitting a fifth class engineer to take charge of any logging engine and boiler or any farming engine and boiler not exceeding 20 horse power, but such experience shall not count when applying for a higher grade certificate.

Mr. Oliver objected that a man might spend four or five years at work of this class and become at any rate partially qualified for a higher position—it would be a great hardship if this did not count.

Mr. Oliver moved an amendment to the effect that the "proviso" be struck out. This was carried by the casting vote of the chairman. Mr. Hawthornthwaite's amendment then carried without the proviso.

The committee rose and reported the Bill complete with amendment. The report was adopted and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The House went into committee on the Liquor Traffic Regulation Bill with Mr. Garden in the chair. The Bill passed committee report and third reading.

The adjourned debate on the second reading of the Tramway Car Act was continued and on it being put to the vote, fifteen voted for and fifteen against the speaker decided that at this late stage it was his duty to vote against the Bill; he did so and it was accordingly killed.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite withdrew the Shops Regulation Act.

Mr. Henderson moved the second reading of the Act to protect persons improving land under a mistake of Title. The vote was 14 to 15 and the Bill was lost.

Mr. Ross withdrew the Act to amend the Companies Act, Amendment Act.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald read a telegram from the matron of the Children's Aid home at Vancouver imploring aid towards the erection of a new home in place of the one destroyed by fire.

Hon. R. McBride said the government had already considered the matter and decided to give the sum of $3,000. He had also instructed the government official to remain there.

Hon. R. McBride then moved that the House adjourn for ten minutes pending the arrival of his honor the lieutenant governor.

Precisely at 10 o'clock his honor entered the House in ordinary evening dress and wearing the legion of honor. He was proceded by the sergeant of arms and followed by Mr. Speaker Pooley. Having greeted the members his honor took the speaker's chair and the clerk of the House read the list of Acts passed during the session.

His honor the lieutenant governor having entered the throne and been seated in the chair, Mr. Fell, the clerk of the house, read the titles of the following bills:

(No. 2) An Act to amend the General Trusts Corporation Act, 1905.

(No. 3) An Act to declare the law with respect to Ancient Lights.

(No. 5) An Act to amend the British Columbia Securities Company Act, 1905.

(No. 6) An Act respecting the County Court of Atlin.

(No. 8) An Act to amend the Provincial Elections Act.

(No. 9) An Act to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act.

(No. 10) An Act to amend the Small Debts Act.

(No. 12) An Act to amend the Companies Act by providing for the Registration of Companies' Mortgages.

(No. 13) An Act respecting the Use and Manufacture, with British Columbia, of Timber cut on Lands of the Crown.

(No. 14) An Act for the Relief and Disincorporation of the Municipality of Dewdney.

(No. 15) An Act to consolidate and amend the Municipal Clauses Act and amending acts.

(No. 16) An Act to amend the Assessment Act, 1903.

(No. 17) An Act to give Legislative Sanction to the Supreme Court Rules, 1906.

(No. 18) An Act to amend the Land Act.

(No. 19) An Act to amend the Dyking Assessments Adjustment Act, 1905.

(No. 21) An Act respecting Distress.

(No. 22) An Act to Ratify an Agreement which has been arrived at between the Dominion and Provincial governments, respecting the Western Boundary of the Railway Belt.

(No. 23) An Act to incorporate the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning of British Columbia.

(No. 24) An Act respecting McGill University.

(No. 25) An Act relating to the Transfer of Land, and to provide for the Registration of Titles to Land.

(No. 27) An Act respecting the Cancellation and Amendment of Plans.

(No. 32) An Act to amend the Statutes and Journals Act.

(No. 34) An Act to amend the Public Schools Act.

(No. 35) An Act for the Extermination of Wild Horses.

(No. 36) An Act to amend the Provincial Elections Act.

(No. 37) An Act to amend the County Courts Act.

(No. 39) An Act to amend the British Columbia Land Surveyors Act, 1905.

(No. 40) An Act respecting the measurement of Timber.

(No. 41) An Act to Cancel the Assessment Roll for the District of North Vancouver for 1906, and to authorize a new Assessment Roll to be prepared.

(No. 43) An Act to amend the Benevolent Societies Act.

(No. 44) An Act to amend the Health Act.

(No. 46) An Act to Accelerate the Incorporation of the City of North Vancouver.

(No. 47) An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act.

(No. 48) An Act to amend the Columbia & Western Railway Subsidy Act, 1906.

(No. 49) An Act to amend the Placer Mining Act.

(No. 50) An Act to incorporate the Royal Plate Glass Insurance Company of Canada.

(No. 52) An Act to amend the Pacific Coast Fire Insurance Company's Act, 1890.

(No. 53) An Act to incorporate the Kamloops & Yellowhead Pass Railway Company.

(No. 54) An Act to incorporate the Canadian Plate Glass Insurance Company.

(No. 55) An Act to incorporate the British Columbia Northern and Alaska Railway Company.

(No. 56) An Act to amend the Midway & Vernon Railway Company, Act, 1901.

(No. 57) An Act to Revive, Ratify and Confirm the Cowichan, Alberni Fort Rupert Railway Company Act.

(No. 58) An Act to amend the Lightning Creek Gold Gravels & Drainage Company Limited Liability) Act, 1906.

(No. 60) An Act respecting the British Columbia Northern & Mackenzie Valley Railway Company.

(No. 61) An Act to amend the Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1900.

(No. 62) An Act to incorporate the Bella Coola & Fraser Lake Railway Company.

(No.) 63) An Act to incorporate the South East Kootenay Railway Company.

(No. 64) An Act to incorporate the St. Mary's & Cherry Creek Railway Company.

(No. 65) An Act to incorporate the St. Mary's Valley Railway Company.

(No. 66) An Act relating to the Union Steamship Company of British Columbia, Limited.

(No. 67) An Act to incorporate the Ashcroft, Barkerville & Fort George Railway Company.

(No. 70) An Act to incorporate the British Columbia Central Railway Company.

(No. 71) An Act to amend the False Creek Foreshore Act, 1904.

(No. 72) An Act to amend The Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting & Power Company Act, 1901.

(No. 73) An Act to incorporate the Southern Okanagan Railway Company.

(No. 75) An Act further to amend the Vancouver General Hospital Act, 1902.

(No. 79) An Act to provide for the Establishment of a Provincial Stockbreeders' Association, and for the Introduction, Exhibition, Improvement, Purchase and Sale of Pure Bred Live Stock.

(No. 80) An Act to amend Chapter 18 of the Revised Statutes, 1897.

(No. 81) An Act to amend the Water Clauses Consolidated Act, 1897.

(No. 82) An Act to amend the Liquor License Act, 1900.

(No. 83) An Act to amend the Steam Boiler Inspection Act, 1901.

(No. 84) An Act to incorporate The Lifeboat and Life-saving Association of British Columbia.

(No. 85) An Act to amend the Victoria Terminal Railway and Ferry Act, 1901.

(No. 86) An Act to authorize, under certain conditions, the Sale by the Corporation of the City of Victoria of certain lands held for Park Purposes in the City of Victoria.

(No. 87) An Act to amend the Liquor Traffic Regulation Act.

(No. 88) An Act to amend Chapter 54 of the Statutes of 1902.

His honor was pleased, in His Majesty's name, to give assent to these bills.

The same was announced by the clerk of the house in the following words:

"In His Majesty's name, his honor the lieutenant governor doth assent to these bills."

Then the Hon. Mr. Speaker addressed his honor the lieutenant governor as follows:

May it please Your Honor:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the legislative assembly of the province of British Columbia, in session assembled, approach your honor at the close of our labors with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to His Majesty's person and government, and humbly beg to present for your honor's acceptance bill (No. 89) intituled "An Act for granting certain Sums of Money for the Public Service of the Province of British Columbia."

To this bill the clerk of the legislative assembly, by his honor's command, did thereupon say:

"In His Majesty's name his honor the lieutenant governor doth thank His Majesty's loyal subjects, accept their benevolence, and assent to this bill."

Then his honor the lieutenant governor was pleased to deliver the following gracious speech:

"In relieving you from further attendance on your legislative duties, it affords me pleasure to express my appreciation of the earnestness and care which you have displayed in dealing with the many important subjects that have occupied your attention.

"The present satisfactory state of the provincial finances and the prosperous condition of the leading industries of the country are proofs that the measures passed by you at previous sessions of the legislature have achieved the desired results.

"I thank you for the supplies granted for the administration of this province, and I am glad to see the liberal provision made for expenditures on public works.

"In releasing you for a time from the performance of your legislative work, I sincerely hope that the labors of the session may tend still further to promote the welfare of the people and the prosperity of the province."

The Hon. Mr. Fulton, provincial secretary, then said:

The Hon. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It is his honor the lieutenant governor's will and pleasure that the legislative assembly be prorogued until it shall please his honor to summon the same for despatch of business, and this provincial legislative assembly is hereby prorogued accordingly.

CHAS. E. POOLEY,
Speaker.

THE PIONEER MEN OF OLD CARIBOO

Series of Reminiscent Articles Now Being Published in Ashcroft Journal.

The Colonist the other day commenced the republication from the columns of the Ashcroft Journal of a series of articles dealing with the lives of the pioneers of Cariboo. In its issue of March 10th the Journal has the following interesting additional installment:

William Hodgkinson

William Hodgkinson was born in Simcoe county, Ont., August 16th, 1844. He came to British Columbia via Panama in 1860, arriving at New Westminster in October. His father, who had come to the Fraser river the previous year, had a contract for clearing lots at New Westminster. These lots were heavily timbered with big trees, and Hodgkinson had no team, nor could one be got in the country, so Billy went to Oregon and bought a yoke of oxen near Portland for $500. The lots were cleared in short order, and the following winter Billy, with the oxen, hauled goods on the ice up the river to the town, making $1,300 in six weeks. The team was later sold to Bob Wylie's brother for $300.

In June, 1862, Billy arrived on Williams creek, and that summer helped to sink a shaft on Jack of Clubs creek. The menu for five weeks was nothing more or less than bacon and beans. Grub was scarce, there being no flour for sale, and when they did get a chance to buy it cost $61. Beans were 50 cents a pound.

The daily wage that summer was $10, and the next spring $16 was paid on the Diller claim. On account of the scarcity of grub only about seventy-five men stayed on Williams creek during the winter of '62-'63. Jack Pinkerton, Bob Stevenson and the subject of this sketch are the only ones now alive, so far as known, who spent that winter here. Pinkerton worked that winter on the windlass at the Barker claim. Board was $35 a week in '63, and Billy got $10 per cord for cutting wood for the court house in '62.

In 1863 Billy owned and worked on a Lowhee creek claim. C. Terry, Mose Ireland, Moody and Crozier were the other partners.

The next year he was in the Richfield, on Williams creek. Duncan Cameron, Bob Stevenson, Van Volkenburg, Brouse brothers and others were interested. In '62 he and Bob Stevenson were on the windlass when the shaft was being sunk on the Cameron claim. Billy noticed gold in the dump, and that night they told Cameron, who brought a rocker and rocked out $83 in a short time the next afternoon; the next day he rocked out about $300. The bottom of the shaft was eight feet from bedrock at the time.

Billy worked in many other rich Williams creek claims, but quit mining long ago, and for many years has sold wood and run a dairy in Barkerville.

He has been on the hospital board of trustees since 1891, and captain of the fire brigade since November, 1905.

Space is lacking to relate Billy's stories of the old-timers and old times; of Cariboo Cameron and his three horse loads of gold; how "Tennessee" found he had made a miscalculation of just six when he proposed to "lick any half dozen Canadians," and how Mrs. Hodgkinson proved that she could lift a quarter of beef.

Robert Heath

Robert Heath was born in Derbyshire, England, May 26th, 1836. He came to British Columbia in 1858, via New York and Panama, arriving at Victoria in June.

His first mining was on Hills bar, and he afterwards was on Murderers, Texas, Boston, Kanaka and Big bars. The winter of '58-'59 was passed in Victoria.

In June, '59, he was one of about a hundred men who went from Victoria on the schooner Island Queen to prospect for the rich gold quartz reported found at Gold harbor, Queen Charlotte island. In those days the west coast Indians were considered dangerous, so just before leaving the prospectors were called before Governor Douglas at his office on the Adelphi corner, Yater street, and presented each with a rifle. As it turned out, these procautions and the night and day watches kept en route were needless, as the natives made no trouble. The quartz was found, but all hands were disgusted to find it nearly worked out. Nothing remained but an inch seam on the beach below high tide. A few shots were put in and specimens containing visible gold were obtained. Heath saw some very rich quartz specimens in the possession of the Indians. Major Downie and two or three others, including Griscomb, a colored man, left the party at Gold harbor and went to Port Simpson and thence overland to Cariboo.

This Downie was the man for whom Downie pass in Cariboo and Downie pass in California were named, and Griscomb portage was named for the Griscomb mentioned.

After the Gold harbor trip Heath worked in the Bellingham coal mine until early in 1860, when, with Tom Brown and "Red Aleck," he went to Quesnel forks via Fort Douglas and Alexandra. Jim Sellers, an American, had a house at Beaver lake at the time, and at the forks General Palmer had a store and brought flour and other supplies from Oregon by pack train. "Square" George also had a store there and Tom Beery and Sam Adler a saloon. Dick Bennett was butchering for Palmer. Heath worked on Dancing Bill bar and on the north and south forks of the Quesnel until the spring of '63, when he came to Antler and Williams creeks. Holmes had a store at Sawmill flat at the time, and Beedy a store at Antler.

George Veith was working a claim on Williams creek, opposite the court house, in '63. He has been a good man to prospectors, says Heath. Heath has owned in claims on Williams, Sugar, Grouse, Antler and Hardscrabble creeks and in the New Zealand claim on Conklin gulch. He took a trip back to the old country in 1896 and returned to Barkerville the next year, where he has since lived. He has a model garden every summer and beautiful flowers the year round. Bob has never been sick a day in British Columbia, and his contentment a millionaire might envy. It is a pleasure to hear him talk of those pioneers, Sage Miller, Dick Willoughby, "Texas" and others, and as he talks his thoughts are away back in those early days. "Old Texas," he was a fine fellow, you bet your life," and as he says this his tone is full of conviction. "He always packed an eight-square rifle. With that rifle and a sack of salt he'd go anywhere. All the creeks were found by that kind of men. They'd find a claim, sell it out and go like —— for somewhere else."

FROM PROVINCIAL MINES.

Output of Ore From Yale-Kootenay Camps During Last Week.

Nelson, B. C., March 12.—A heavy output of ore is maintained over whole district and immediate prospects of a still further increase in tonnage. Hall Mines smelter and plant at Pilot Bay, are finishing new improvements, a noticeable feature of the week is the largely increasing shipments from the Copper mines in this district. The Eureka, the total shipments for the week are 36,350 tons made up of 28,000 tons from the Boundary ten shippers of which the chief are Granby, Mother Lode, Steamwinder, Sunset, Oro Denaro, Emma and Rawhide, 6650 from Rossland four shippers, Centre, Star, Le Roi Two and Jumbo and 1680 from Slocan and Kootenay, 16 shippers the chief being St. Eugene, Sullivan and North Star of East Kootenay and Hunter V., Arlington, Eureka, Black Prince and Ymir of the district near to Nelson. The total shipments for the year are 358,228. The various smelters received as follows: Granby, 18,839; Trail, 7,610; Dominion Copper, 5,566; B. C. Copper, 3,663; Hall Mines, 687; Marysville, 500.

Rossland Camp

Rossland, March 12.—This week there further strong rumors of strike of importance in the Le Roi but the management when seen manifested extreme reticence. Still the information comes from such an authentic source that there is every probability that a very important announcement will be made within the next few days of one of the best and largest strikes that has been made in the Le Roi. The Le Roi No. 2 is engaged in developing what is probably the longest ore shute in British Columbia in the 500 foot level. The ore shoot is 1200 feet in length and with the exception of about 100 feet which is comparatively barren is high grade ore which will easily average $40 to the ton and in places it runs as high as $275 to the ton. As soon as the drift along this shoot is completed prospecting will be commenced above and below to determine its dimensions in these directions. It is estimated by conservative mining men that the Le Roi No. 2 should make a profit this year of at least half a million dollars. Following are the shipments for the week: Centre Star, 3,780; Le Roi, 2,800; Le Roi, No. 2, 580; Jumbo, 100. Total for the week, 7,260 and for the year 59,415.

Fire at Nakusp

Nakusp, B. C., March 12.—During a raging wind storm Saturday three houses of the prohibited district on Main street were burned to the ground through a defective pipe. Only one was occupied and from this house most of the furniture was rescued. It was only through strenuous efforts of a large volunteer brigade that surrounding buildings particularly Abriels Hall and the government office were saved. The loss sustained by the Revelstoke and local owners is not great and the town is rid of a decided eyesore from its very centre.

FIGHT IN POLAND.

Warsaw, March 12.—Five persons were killed and fifteen injured in a fight at Strykoff, government of Pitrkoff, yesterday between Catholics and sectarians, who occupied in force a Catholic church.

BALFOUR AGAIN TAKES HIS SEAT

Irish Party Greet Ex-premier With Cries of "Welcome Little Stranger"

VOTE OF CENSURE ON THE OPPOSITION

Gale Causes High Tides and Floods Through the Old Country.

London, March 12.—The first day of the debate in the House of Commons on the speech of Sir James Kitson, ministerialist, declaring it to be the determination of parliament to resist any attempt to institute protective duties, proved to be uneventful. The motion was aimed to emphasize the dissension supposed to exist among the Unionists, but former Premier Balfour treated it as a motion of censure of the opposition, and both he and Joseph Chamberlain avoided committing themselves to any expression of opinion. The main points in the debate were of the personal character, Mr. Chamberlain once calling the premier "uncivil," and on another occasion Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman testily reproving the opposition for wasting time, exclaiming: "Enough of this tomfoolery; move your amendments and let us get to business."

The debate continued into the small hours. The division will be taken on Thursday.

Mr. Balfour's Return

Former Premier Balfour returned to the House of Commons today and assumed the leadership of the opposition. He was heartily welcomed on all sides. The Irish members saluted Mr. Balfour with cheers of "Welcome, little stranger."

Floods Due to Gale

High tides and floods, due to a gale which has prevailed throughout the country today, and notably on the east coast, have caused considerable damage to seawalls, promenades and piers. In the Thames river the water was the highest recorded for a generation, but the protection provided at weak points in the embankment prevented a repetition of the disaster of 1881.

RATE DISCRIMINATION.

Kansas City, Mo., March 12.—Acting on resolutions passed by both houses of congress, three of the interstate commerce commissions began an investigation here into charges made by independent producers of Kanhas that the railways of Kansas discriminate in favor of the Standard Oil company in the matter of freight rates outside that state.

UNITED STATES BATTLESHIPS.

Washington, March 12—A letter representing the desirability of building battleships in the Brooklyn navy yard was sent to President Roosevelt today by Bird S. Coler, president of the borough of Brooklyn. Mr. Coler stated that he believed the construction of warships in the navy yard can be completed more promptly and the work done cheaper and more satisfactorily than similar work done in private yards.

SPRING MEETINGS FARMERS' INSTITUTE

Programme and the Lecturers Who Will Speak at the Various Gatherings.

The department of agriculture have arranged the following programme of subjects and speakers and itinerary of the spring regular meetings of the Farmers' Institutes. The meetings opened last Wednesday at Comox, when Dr. S. F. Tolmie and Robt. Thompson gave addresses. Today there will be a meeting at Cowichan, when the same lecturers will be present, as also at the meeting to be held tomorrow and Thursday at Metchosin, and on Friday and Saturday in this city.

The programme opening next Monday and speakers is as follows: Robt. Thompson and J. R. Carmichael—Monday and Tuesday, March 19 and 20; points in Metchosin institute district.

Dr. S. F. Tolmie and J. R. Anderson—Monday and Tuesday, March 19 and 20; points in Matsqui institute district. Friday and Saturday, 23rd and 24th; points in Surrey institute district.

Dr. S. F. Tolmie and F. M. Logan—Monday and Tuesday, March 26 and 27; points in Langley institute district. Wednesday and Thursday, 28th and 29th; points in Chilliwack institute district. Friday and Saturday, 30th and 31st; points in Richmond institute district. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 2, 3 and 4; points in Maple Ridge institute district. Thursday, April 5; points in Mission institute district. Friday, April 6; points in Kent institute district.

Rev. W. E. Cunham, a poultry expert—Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, March 20, 22 and 23; points in Nanaimo institute district. Wednesday, March 21; points in Alberni institute district. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 26, 27, 28 and 29; points in Islands institute district. Monday, April 2, points in Burrard institute district.

W. C. McKillican and Robt. Thompson—Friday, March 23; Kelowna. Saturday and Monday, March 24 and 26; points in Okanagan institute district. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 27, 28 and 29; points in Spallumcheen institute district. Friday and Saturday, March 30 and 31; points in Salmon Arm institute district. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 2, 3 and 4; points in Kamloops institute district.

To Be Arranged for

The following have still to be arranged for, and will probably be taken by J. R. Anderson, in company partly with Mr. Logan, partly with Mr. Thompson, and partly with Dr. Tolmie, viz.:

Points in West Kootenay institute district—Nelson, Grand Forks, Kaslo, etc.

Points in East Kootenay institute district—Creston, etc.

Points in Osoyoos institute district—Peachland, Summerland, Penticton, Fairview, etc.

Points in Lillooet institute district—Lower Nic