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PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

1st Session of the Sixth Parliament.

SIXTEENTH DAY.

February 12, 1891.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 p.m.

After prayers by Rev. C. Watson,

A petition was presented by Mr. Keith, of the Nanaimo Electric Tramway Co.

COL. BAKER presented the following report of the

RAILWAY COMMITTEE.

The Standing Committee on Railways respectfully recommend to the House that before any of the present Private Railway bills before the House are taken into consideration the Government be requested to consider the advisability of amending the present Railway act by introducing a clause which will provide that the right of eminent domain, upon special conditions, but without the necessity for a special charter, be granted as a right to applicants for railways.

NEW BILLS.

MR. COTTON—To incorporate the Burrard Inlet Railway and Ferry company.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robson the House went into committee on the message of His Honor the Lieut.-Governor with

THE SCHOOL BILL.

After a long discussion as to the proper stage at which the bill should be discussed on its merits, the bill was reported by the committee and read a first time; second reading Monday.

MR. COTTON asked that the second reading be delayed a little longer.

HON. MR. ROBSON replied that there was no undue desire to push this Bill through, and on Monday if necessary, further time would be allowed.

MR. COTTON said he had reason to believe that a number of members would not be here on Monday, and they desired to have communication with their respective School Boards on the subject of this Bill. If further time were given it would afford the different School Boards the opportunity of considering the matter.

MR. BROWN said that unless they travelled on Sunday, members who went to the Westminster Southern Railroad celebration could not be back here for Monday's session. He thought the principle of toleration should be allowed. Moreover, postal communications on Monday were always somewhat unsatisfactory.

The second reading was fixed for Tuesday, the Premier remarking that members could readily get back on Saturday night, nevertheless he was ready to give them every facility to consult with those whom they represented.

REVENUE TAX BILL.

On motion of HON. MR. TURNER, the message of the Lieut.-Governor with the Provincial Revenue Tax Bill, to provide for levying a tax on persons, was considered in committee, Mr. Forster in the chair, and the Bill founded upon it introduced and read a first time as "the Revenue Tax Bill." The object was explained to be to hand over the personal taxes to the corporations of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo.

The House again went into committee, Mr. Mackenzie in the chair, on the message of the Lieut.-Governor, accompanied by

THE ASSESSMENT BILL.

MR. SEMLIN objected to the idea of relieving the Canadian Pacific Railway from taxation. This, he said, was most unjust to the stock-raisers, whose interests had been very much prejudiced by the presence of the railway. He complained of the large number of animals which had been killed on the track without any indemnification to their owners. He denied that it was possible, as was proposed in this instance, to apply here the laws of Ontario. He referred to the neglect of the company to fence their track properly, and declared it was impossible for stockholders to fence the land, because it was not their property and they could not purchase it, as they had been time and time again informed by the Dominion authorities. As to the claims of the stock-raisers for damages the law was always in favor of the railroad. The province, he considered, had one lever with which to protect the settlers in their rights. Let them say to the C.P.R. Co. when they asked the Government to do justice to them: "You do justice to the settlers and then we'll do justly by you." The C. P. R said they were much overcharged in their taxes. Let them put up their fences and then they might approach the Provincial Government with clean hands. Let, he said, the railway clauses be taken out of the present bill, and so far as the railway was concerned, let the Government retain their present attitude.

HON. MR. DAVIE said this was not the time to take up this question. The member for New Westminster had some days since brought in legislation in the direction indicated by the last speaker, when he (Mr. Davie) had informed the member, that the Government would give it consideration, and it was most probable that before the House prorogued the necessary legislation might be expected. The proper course was first to make the law and then make the C. P. R. act up to it. The matter had to be dealt with as a whole. The Government was desirous of collecting something from the C. P. R. Co., and have the taxation placed on a proper basis. In the past the C. P. R. assessment had been a matter of arrangement, and the Provincial legislation on the subject had consequently been likely to be disallowed. If the measure were not just the matter would have been taken from court to court, and the Province would have got nothing. It was with the Government in this matter a case of Hobson's choice. He thought that though the C.P.R. had its charter from Dominion authority it might be dealt with from the point of view of property and civil rights, in which direction he repeated, legislation was contemplated before the session had concluded. It was but an experiment, as no province had as yet undertaken to deal in the way proposed with Dominion railways.

HON. MR. BEAVEN said the contention of the member for Yale was entitled to every consideration. The act proposed to relieve the C.P.R. from a large portion of their taxation, and now most certainly was the time to obtain redress from them for the settlers for the loss of their cattle. There was no time for action like that which we now had control of.

On the motion that the committee rise and report the bill.

HON. MR. BEAVEN moved an amendment to the motion to the effect that the amendments are insufficient, more especially as there is no provision to make a distinction between the value of the land itself and the improvements made upon it by the actual settler or owner—other than those by a railway corporation upon their roadbed—so as to exempt them from taxation, or reduce their taxation on improvements.

The amendment was lost and the motion was adopted and the bill reported.

On the motion to adopt the report,

HON. MR. BEAVEN moved the amendment which he had offered in committee. He contended that the movement to exempt the improvements of a wealthy corporation and not to exempt those of the actual settlers was not a move in the right direction.

HON. MR. ROBSON had always regarded it as improper in theory to tax improvements. It looked as if it was encouraging people not to improve their property, and to discourage them by taxing them for improving it. This was an undesirable state of matters, as he had always regarded it. The cities had power to exempt improvements from taxation, but had they used it? This being the case, the Government would have been much to blame for making exemptions from taxation. They would have been going ahead of the public sentiment and revolutionizing the system of taxation, which should not be done until, at any rate, the four cities had given an intimation of their feeling in this direction. Yet the House was called upon to vote a want of confidence in the Government. The opportunity would come this session when any honorable member could act in the matter; then the House would give the subject every consideration, and if their opinion was in that sense the Government would be prepared to listen, appreciate and take careful action—not a revolutionary leap.

MR. SWORD said he wanted assessors to be instructed to intimate, in their returns, the amount they taxed on the value of the land and what they assessed on the improvements.

MR. SEMLIN said the leader of the Government had his full sympathy, as though he approved of the recommendation of the Opposition, it would mean the defeat of the Government.

After further remarks from Mr. Semlin and Mr. Foster, the latter of whom said he was not prepared to go beyond expressed public opinion.

The amendment was put and lost. Nays, 23; ayes, 5.

Ayes—Beaven, Milne, Semlin, Grant, Mackenzie.

Nays—Sword, Kitchen, Kellie, Horne, Smith, Brown, Forster, Keith, Baker, Robson, Davie, Vernon, Eberts, Stoddart, Booth, Hall, Nason, Pooley, Turner, Croft, Hunter, Rogers, Fletcher.

The report was adopted and the bill was introduced and read a first time; second reading, Monday.

HON. MR. DAVIE moved the adoption of the report on the

LAND REGISTRY BILL,

which was carried, and the bill was adopted and read a third time.

One motion of HON. MR. DAVIE the House went into committee on

THE SUPREME COURT BILL,

constituting the Vancouver judicial district. Dr. Milne occupied the chair.

The Committee rose and reported progress, and the House adjourned at 6 o'clock, it being understood that when the House rose Friday night it would stand adjourned till Tuesday.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

BY MR. COTTON—To introduce a bill to amend the Companies' Act.

HON. MR. DAVIE—Monday—Bill to amend the Supreme Court Act.

SEVENTEENTH DAY.

February 13th, 1891.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 2 o'clock.

After prayers by Rev. C. Watson,

MR. KEITH introduced a bill to incorporate the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway, which was referred to the railway committee.

MR. KEITH submitted a report of the committee on the Wellington strike or lock-out, asking for authority to appoint a secretary. The report was adopted.

PRIVILEGE.

MR. HORNE rose to a question of privilege. He drew the attention of the house to the resolution adopted by a recent meeting at Vancouver endorsing Mr. Cotton's vote on the Chinese question, and censuring him (Mr. Horne) for being absent. This motion of censure was, he said, unjust and uncalled for, he having been sick at the time of the presentation of the resolution. He had never shirked a vote, he was always man enough to give his vote for or against as he might think proper. He thought this explanation should be sufficient.

HON. MR. BEAVEN considered that the gentlemen present at that public meeting must have been misinformed when they supposed that he had shirked the vote. He (Mr. Beaven) knew that Mr. Horne was unwell and in bed, and when they knew that fact they would change their opinion. The meeting had accidentally and unintentionally, he was sure, done Mr. Horne an injustice.

HON. MR. ROBSON said that he knew that not only was Mr. Horne sick but he was very ill at the time, and the resolution was unjust. Sometimes organizations condemned in a precipitate way those who were their very best friends. This showed how careful these organizations should be not to condemn and antagonize those who were really their friends.

HON. MR. BEAVEN said it went without saying that Mr. Horne did not shirk his vote. He described it as a healthy sign when people took an interest in public matters, though in this case they had been misinformed.

MR. KEITH testified to the confidence he had in Mr. Horne and said that but for miners he would have been here.

RETURNS.

HON. MR. DAVIE presented a return showing the disposition of the intestate estate of the late Armstead Buckner.

EMINENT DOMAIN.

COL. BAKER brought up the report of the railway committee with reference to the right of eminent domain. The railway committee was to meet on Monday and he thought the Government should give the committee some idea with respect to the subject, in order to facilitate them in the discharge of their duties. They wished to know how they should treat bills now before the committee. His own opinion was that the committee was bound to go on with the bills now before them.

HON. MR. ROBSON—Let the committee go on with their work irrespective of the Government, and then report.

COL. BAKER asked that the promoters of railways should submit to the committee maps and profiles of the enterprises in which they were interested.

MR. HUNTER referred to the vagueness of much of the information which was supplied with railway bills.

HON. MR. BEAVEN said that the member for Kootenay, in view of the importance of the report, should give notice of his intention to move its adoption, in order that members might consider the question.

After further discussion, COL. BAKER gave notice that he would move the adoption of the report, on Wednesday.

THE MECHANICS' LIEN BILL.

On the motion to receive the report on the Mechanics' Lien Bill,

HON. MR. BEAVEN moved to amend section 12 by striking out all the words after "behalf" on the 5th line down to and including "may" on the 8th line, and insert—"a pay roll containing the names of all laborers who have done work for him upon such works or improvements, with a receipt in full from each of the said laborers, with the amounts which were due and had been paid to each of them set opposite their respective names, which pay roll shall."

Also to amend Schedule C, so as to show the actual days worked, the amount earned and the amount paid.

After some remarks, HON. MR. DAVIE said he was sure that were the present bill passed it would be only a matter of a short time before it was repealed. He referred to the petition which had been presented to the House against this bill, whose adoption would, it was held by some people, be most disastrous. Dwelling upon the extent of present building operations, he declared that under the bill building operations would be thrown in the hands of a few contractors who, unable to do all the work they had undertaken, a cessation would be put to many works. By the new bill, the original contractors' laborers were protected; but the employees of other contractors would have to wait until claims under the first contractor were satisfied. For the present he held the existing law to be ample. He did not think that, during the last six months, there had been such a change in public sentiment as to demand this radical alteration. He hoped the report on the bill would not be adopted.

HON. MR. BEAVEN's motion having been read a first time, on the motion for its second reading,

MR. BOOTH moved that the bill be recommitted.

MR. BROWN cited a number of petitions from working men in favor of an improved lien law, and opposed the re-committal of the bill, holding that the measure now before the House met existing circumstances. The only petition against the bill had come from Victoria, though some of the material men at New Westminster and Vancouver had taked adversely to it. With an honest contractor there was no loss, but with a dishonest contractor it inevitably fell upon the owner, the material man or the laborer, the latter of whom had to take his chances of getting his wages.

HON. MR ROBSON believed it would be wisdom to refer the bill back to committee, as there were some members favorable to the bill who desired certain amendments. For one, he favored confining the lien of the workingmen to a month's wages instead of allowing them to run indefinitely. The workingman ought to have a first claim for his wages allowing the material man to come next. The labor having enhanced the value of the material, the laborers' claim should be made absolute and supreme, after which the material man was amply provided for. If the material man had no recognized claim the result would be disastrous, as putting a check upon building operations generally.

MR. BOOTH said he knew at least one case in which a material man had informed a contractor that if this bill became law it would be impossible to supply the material.

After remarks by Messrs. Smith and Stoddart,

MR. HUNTER said the bill had been received and debated and the principle accepted, and he for one would not stultify himself by going over the whole thing again.

MR. CROFT opposed the bill, saying he had been informed by a lumber manufacturer that it the bill passed it would very considerably reduce the demand for material, as it would materially curtail building operations.

MR. SWORD moved an amendment that the bill be recommitted for the purpose of inserting the amendments proposed by Hon. Mr. Beaven and by Mr. Kitchen, also to prevent the presentation of bogus pay rolls and to limit the laborers' claim within a certain period.

MR. KEITH objected to re-committing the Bill for the sake of dragging in the material men.

After a protracted discussion on the motion to refer the Bill to committee,

HON. MR. DAVIE advocated the simplification of matters so as to allow the workman, if he did not get his wages either from the contractor or the owner, a summary right of action on application to the courts. Then the material man should be provided for, otherwise the material could not be supplied, and settlement would be prejudged. Were this Bill moved into unlimited committee, he would draw out a clause to protect the laborer to at least a month's wages; also, to protect all the other parties whose claims had been laid before the House. If some member would move the adjournment of the debate, he would have these amendments drafted, and which, being on the order paper, would be regularly before the House.

On motion the debate was adjourned.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL BILL.

DR. MILNE moved the second reading of the "Pharmaceutical Bill," whose provisions he explained at some length. He commented on the necessity of such a measure in the public interest, and described it as very liberal in its provisions. He enlarged upon the safeguards which ought to be placed around the sale of poisons.

MR. SMITH thought that a clause should be placed in the bill to provide that the original or a certified copy of a prescription should be given to the persons presenting it.

DR. MILNE said the prescription belonged to the party who obtained it from the physician.

After further discussion,

DR. MILNE said that if the credentials presented by practitioners from foreign countries were satisfactory, they would not be required to submit to examination.

HON. MR. BEAVEN said that he had read the bill very carefully and it was not a measure for whose second reading he could vote. He was opposed to legislation of this kind. The association proposed would have unlimited power to frame by-laws and there was no limit to them. It might be that this bill would be establishing one of the closest corporations ever established in the province. He could not, he said, see the necessity of making practitioners from foreign countries pass examinations, which might be insisted upon by subsequent by-laws. He moved the adjournment of the debate—Carried.

The House adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

MR. COTTON—Tuesday—For a select committee, composed of Messrs. Semlin, Eberts, Hall, Forster and the mover, to investigate all matters connected with the seizure of the Hesperus and her crew, with power to call for persons and papers, and to report to the House.

MR. KITCHEN—To amend section 12 of the Mechanics' and Laborers' Bill, by providing that a contractor shall put up on the works or improvements a copy of the receipted pay roll, from the hour of noon until 1 p. m., on the first legal day after pay day.

MR. BROWN—To amend sub-section 2 of section 23 of the Mechanics' and Laborers' Bill, so as to secure to laborers six week's wages instead of a month.

HON. MR. DAVIE—Certain amendments to the Libel and Slander Bill, when up on third reading.

HON. MR. BEAVEN—Certain amendments to the Libel and Slander Bill, when it comes up for third reading.

The post-office clerks handled more mail yesterday than in any one day for five years.

THE "SCOTT ACT" IN P. E. ISLAND.

TO THE EDITOR:—The statement has been publicly made several times lately, notably in the editorial columns of THE DAILY COLONIST of Dec. 31, '90, and later by Mayor Grant in the Council Chamber on Monday evening last, that prohibitive legislation has utterly failed in P. E. Island. The proposition that legal prohibition of any trade increases its volume, does not seem to be reasonable; that it is not true in the case of the liquor traffic is evidenced by the fact that liquor dealers and manufacturers invariably offer the most desperate opposition to such legislation, spending their money like water, when necessary, to defeat it.

The following extracts from letters lately received from P. E. Island will be of interest to very many at this juncture, and I trust that in the interest of fair play, you will give them a place in your influential columns. Thus, these letters are written by clergymen, but they are men who are in a position to know the facts, and their testimony would have been eagerly quoted had it chanced to be on the other side of the question. These extracts are culled from letters received during the last two weeks. If anything further is needed similar testimony can be obtained from numbers of responsible people throughout P. E. Island.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I., Jan. 26, 1891.

The allusions to Charlottetown being in the hands of the liquor sellers mean simply this: For some years, owing to the distribution of the wards, it has been possible for the enemies of the Scott Act to control the civic elections, and the result is that in a council of ten members we have three liquor dealers, a brewer, and some others, who sympathize with them in opposing the Act. Two of these dealers served two months each in prison last year for violation of the Act, and then came out and resumed their places in the City Council. The Council dismissed the prosecutor and gave the police marshall the nominal salary of ten dollars to enforce the Act, . . . yet the Act has been censured for not doing away with the liquor traffic. . . . Had it not been for an error in preparing the voters' lists, by which nearly one hundred votes were lost, the large majority of which would, it is generally believed, have been cast for the act, we would not have had the election brought on, or at least we could easily have retained the Act. The traffic in liquors has been very largely reduced under its operation.

(Signed), JOHN READ,
Methodist Minister.

The following letter is from Rev. J. A. Cahill, Baptist minister in Summerside, P. E. I. Mr. Cahill is thoroughly posted as to the workings of the Scott Act from the first, and challenges successful contradiction of his statements. After acknowledging the receipt of THE COLONIST of Dec. 31, he says; "The editorial referred to has for its theme the old, old story, viz; 'The failure of the Scott Act,' and the whole structure is built upon a few extracts from the Examiner, the recognized advocate of the anti-Scott Act party, yes, the rum party of Charlottetown and the rum combine of all P. E. I. The Guardian and Patriot and Rev. Mr. Lloyd are quoted as in sympathy with the Scott Act, but disheartened with its results. Why did not THE COLONIST tell the whole truth in connection with what was quoted? In 1889-90 the rum combine of Charlottetown gained control of local civic affairs. Under this ruin rule, even with the Scott Act existing, all the infernal elements of depraved nature held for a time high carnival in Charlottetown. Under these circumstances the "Guardian," "Patriot," and Rev. Mr. Lloyd made the statements quoted. But when the righteous indignation of true women and honest men was aroused a different state of affairs obtained. The women of Charlottetown hired and paid an inspector, and the very men sworn to enforce the law spent their terms in prison for violation of it. The COLONIST states that the figures in the Blue Books can have little avail against the testimony of truthful citizens. It is then stated that in 1880 there were 260 arrests for drunkenness, and in 1889, 330; conclusion, an increase of crime under Scott Act. Why were these years especially taken? I will tell you. In these years civic matters were controlled by the rum power a good part of the time in our city, Charlottetown, and drunkenness was abundant. Now I will give you some figures: Under licence in P.E.I., in the years 1875-76 and '77, the arrests for drunkenness were as follows: 712, 686, 737, total 2135. Under Scott Act, for the years 1880-81-82 arrests for drunkenness as follows: 258, 197, 218, total 637. These figures have been carefully prepared and are beyond successful contradiction. Again, take an example under license and under Scott Act, as to the amount of liquor imported, and see where the balance is. Under licence in P.E.I., with a population of 95,000, there were imported in one year 156,183 gals. Under Scott Act, with a population of 120,000, there were imported 64,948 gals. more than double the amount imported under license with 25,000 less people. Again allow me to quote from the "Patriot," a report of the Inland Revenue department, of which the Hon. John Costigan is Minister:

For the year 1876 under license, consumption per head for P. E. Island: Spirits, 849 gallons; beer, 932 gallons; wine, 98 gallons.

For the year 1888 under Scott Act, consumption per head for P. E. Island: Spirits, 238 gallons; beer, 328 gallons; wine, 9 gallons.

"Here we see that the consumption of spirits was little more than one-fourth under Scott Act what it was under license, and the consumption of beer only one-third, while the use of wine was almost discontinued."—Patriot.

Now let the liquor sellers themselves speak. In the "Weekly Globe" of June 13th, 1884, we have the statement of Mr. Leonard Keith of the extensive brewing works of Keith & Son, made to a reporter of that paper. "The Scott Act is hurting us badly, and we feel we are entitled to government protection. We cannot send into P. E. Island except at great risk of losing our goods. In fact the brewers of Nova Scotia have ceased to have a trade with the Island." . . . . . The liquor traffic in Charlottetown, like other crimes, sneaks about in dark places, and dens filled with cruelty, for in that city of our Island there is not to-day, one open rumshop."

(Signed,) JOSEPH A. CAHILL,
Jan. 21st, 1891.

SUMMERSIDE, P.E.I., Jan. 21, 1891.

"I can go so far as to say that under the Scott Act the liquor traffic has been abolished throughout the country districts, towns excepted. A few years ago, under licence, drunkenness was common everywhere."

(Signed,) H. SECORD, Colporteur,
26 years service in the Island.

These extracts are correctly copied from letters in my possession. I shall be glad to show the originals, with a number of others, to any person interested in knowing the truth about prohibition in P.E.I.

JAS. H. WHITE.

Victoria, Feb. 10th, 1891.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THOS. E. KITCHEN, M. P. P.

DEAR SIR:—I see by the reports of the Legislature that you are introducing a bill to dyke the Sumas, and allow the water to be diverted from its present course (viz, Vedder Creek) into the Luckacuck, or Chilliwhack, which is about the same thing to us.

Do you know, Mr. Kitchen, that in doing this you will be doing more damage to the best settlement in British Columbia than all the good you could possibly do to Sumas, as,

1. The Luckacuck, for the first three miles has a fall of 25 feet to the mile with a gravel bottom and submerged gravel channels leading in different directions for a mile or two and coming to the surface. If the Luckacuck is full, these channels will carry water into what are now timothy meadows and cultivated fields, causing the land to be cold and unproductive.

2. Were Vedder Creek turned into the Luckacuck unprotected, it would be safe to say that 100 acres, or more, would be cut away by the current and carried out into the sea, or deposited in bars along the Fraser.

3. The fourth, fifth and sixth miles from Vedder Creek, the Luckacuck banks are low, and the water is not so rapid, and a slight rise in the stream would cause an overflow. In fact, a large portion of this section, mostly beautiful cultivated fields, would become almost useless from the frequent overflow, not only keeping it wet but conveying sediment into the growing crops.

4. It is safe to say that the water of Vedder Creek would raise the water in the Luckacuck and Chilliwhack four feet. Now, this is about all the fall we had to the drains from the Big Prairie, so what is the use of trying to drain the prairie if the water is turned into the Luckacuck? You did well at Chilliwhack in giving us assistance in draining this large extent of land, but it appears you are of a different opinion when in Victoria.

5. Do you know that, years ago, when there was more water in the old Chilliwhack, that in time of freshet the whole Big Prairie was a sheet of water from the overflow, reaching as far North and East as Elk Creek, and filling the barnyard of Mr. Shannon with water, i. e., the farm recently purchased by Mr. McRea from Mrs. Cawley?

Now, Mr. Kitchen, if Vedder Creek is turned in, what is to hinder repetition, or even higher water, in time of freshet?

I have not time to write more at present, but hope these few lines will cause you to think of us.

Yours very truly,
CHILLIWHACK.

Chilliwhack, Feb. 8, 1891.

THE SUMAS DYKING BILL.

TO THE EDITOR:—Your correspondent, "Chilliwhack," in his letter, this morning, censures my colleague because the Sumas Dyking bill was introduced into the House by him. Mr. Kitchen and myself have, so far, acted cordially together in all matters affecting our constituents, and, if the introduction of this bill was blameable, I wish to take my share of the blame.

Should the bill, when finally passed, contain provisions unjust to any part of the district, it will be in spite of the opposition of both of us. Yours truly,

C. B. SWORD.

Victoria, 13th Feb., 1891.

CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITOR:—I notice that in the communication with reference to the "Scott Act" in P. E. I., which appeared in your issue of this morning, the omission of the decimal point before the figures indicating the consumption of liquors per head under license and under the "Act," makes the allowance of "wet goods" for each individual startling, even to a Victorian. The decimal should stand before the figures in each case.

Yours truly,
J. H. WHITE.

Victoria, B.C., Feb. 13th, 1891.

PARLIAMENTARY PARAGRAPHS.

The petition of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, presented to the Legislature, is signed by the president, Mrs. Cunningham, and the secretary. It reads:

"We, the undersigned, on behalf of the British Columbia Women's Christian Temperance Union, in view of the fact that the practice of cigarette smoking has increased to an alarming extent within the past few years in our larger towns and cities, and that boys of very tender years are daily using this poison, which tends to retard both their mental and physical growth, respectfully pray that, in your benevolence and wisdom, you may see fit to enact an ordinance, whereby the sale or gift of cigarettes to minors, or their use by the same, may be made a punishable offence throughout British Columbia."

Mr. Kellie's bill to incorporate the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway company, constitutes C. T. Dupont, P. C. Dunlevy, G. B. Wright, C. G. Major, and H. S. Mason, with a capital stock of $1,500,000 in $100 shares. The head office is to be at Victoria. The object of the company is to construct a line of railway from a point on the outlet of Kootenay Lake, near the town of Nelson, to a point at or near Fort Sheppard, in the said province, by way of the valley of Cottonwood, Smith Creek and the Salmon River, with power to construct and maintain branch lines, and also to construct and operate telegraph and telephone lines in connection with the said railway.

Dr. Milne's act, to establish a Pharmaceutical association, gives power to acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property, to be conducted by a council composed of six licentiates of pharmacy, members of the association resident in the province, three of whom retire annually, according to seniority, eligible for re-election. The council to frame by-laws proper and necessary, to alter and amend such by-laws, and to repeal the same in whole or in part. To elect a President and a Vice-President, also a Secretary-Treasurer; to elect persons to replace members of the Council; to elect honorary and corresponding members; to sell, mortgage, control, and manage real and personal property, subject to the by-laws, and to appoint annually a Board of Examiners, of candidates who do not hold certificates from some reputable college of Pharmacy, except such persons duly provided for as being chemists and druggists, on their own account or as clerks who have acted as such for at least four years. The Bill further regulates the sale of poisons, etc.

The Private Bills and Railway committees have considerable business before them for consideration and report.

Knights of Labor.

THE Knights of Labor aim to protect their members from financial difficulties, etc. Hagyard's Yellow Oil protects all who use it from the effects of cold and exposure, such as rheumatism, neuralgia, lumbago, sore throat and all inflammatory pain. Nothing compares with it as a handy pain cure for man and beast.

KAMLOOPS GOSSIP.

Annual Report of the Royal Inland Hospital—Amateur Theatricals—Political Note, Etc.

(From our own Correspondent)

The annual meeting of the subscribers of the Royal Inland hospital was held on Thursday, Capt. Nash presiding. Mr. J. McIntosh, chairman of the board of directors, submitted the annual report, which showed the hospital to be in a flourishing condition and to have undergone several permanent improvements during the year. There were 56 patients under treatment during the twelve months, and at the present moment there are eleven in the wards. There were but four deaths during the year. Messrs. M. Sullivan, J. Rockford and F. J. Fulton were placed on the directorate to fill vacancies occurring by rotation. It was stated that, outside of Kamloops, but one subscription, $10, had been received during the year towards the support of the hospital.

A highly successful amateur dramatic entertainment was given in Raven's hall on Tuesday evening last, under the auspices of the Hospital Woman's Aid Society, and some $90 netted to the credit of the hospital fund. Two laughable farces, "My Turn Next," and "A Kiss in the Dark," were put on the boards in good style, each character being cleverly sustained by local ladies and gentlemen. There was also some excellent music—vocal and instrumental.

The Chinese New Year was celebrated in Kamloops with more than usual *eclat*. Fire works were kept going all Saturday night, and again on Sunday and Monday nights. But one of the Celestial community appeared to know what year they were celebrating. He gave the year as 8401.

Rev. John Lerkis (Ben Israel), representing some unnamed and unknown orphan home in India, lectured in the Presbyterian church on Wednesday evening last, on behalf of the institution. The reverend lecturer, a converted Jew, gave in his broken English a very rambling account of the mysterious country he hails from, and carried away with him from Kamloops $10.20 for the orphans.

Up to date there is no one in the field to oppose the return of Mr. Mara to the Dominion House. Still, it would be no surprise if that gentleman should not have a walk-over.

No. 1 train, coming west, was some seven hours late at Kamloops on Wednesday. The delay was occasioned by the blocking of the line by snow, east of Donald.

The ladies of the Presbyterian church have presented the congregation with a silver communion service, six pieces.

Hon. F. G. Vernon acknowledges the receipt of a petition praying for the construction of a road in the valley of the North Thompson, from Fish Trap to Louis Creek.

THE WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 11.—The Indian conference closed to-day, and the Indians start home Friday. The feature of to-day's talk was the story of the fight at Wounded Knee. Turning Hawk said that at a given time when the men had delivered up their guns they were separated from their families and taken to a certain spot. A crazy man, a young man of very bad influence, fired his gun, killing an officer. The other Indians began drawing knives, although they were exhorted from all sides to desist, and firing began immediately on the part of the soldiers. All the men who were in the bunch were killed right there, and those who escaped the first fire got into a ravine, and as they went along the ravine for a long distance were pursued on all sides by soldiers and shot down. The women had no firearms to fight with. They were standing off at a different place, and when the firing began those of the men who escaped the first volley went in one direction up a ravine, and the women went in a different direction, through an open field, but met the same fate as the men.

American Horse said that when the firing began the people who were standing immediately around the young man who fired the first shot were killed, and then the soldiers turned their guns on the woman, who were beside the lodges, standing under a flag of truce. Of course as soon as they were fired upon they fled.

There was a woman with an infant in her arms killed as she almost touched the flag of truce. Right near the flag another was shot down. Her child, not knowing the mother was dead, was still nursing, and that was a very sad sight. The women as they were fleeing with their babies on their backs were killed together, and women heavy with child were also killed.

After most of the Indians had been killed a cry was made that all those not killed or wounded should come forth and they would be safe. Little boys who were not wounded came out of places of refuge, and as soon as they came in sight a number of soldiers surrounded and butchered them.

Commissioner Morgan said to the interpreter: "I wish you would say to him that these are very serious charges to make against the army. I do not want any statements that are not absolutely true, and I want anyone here who feels that the statements are too strong to correct them."

American Horse replied: "Of course it would have been all right if only the men were killed, but the fact of the killing of women, more especially of young boys and girls, who are to make the future strength of the Indian people, we feel very seriously."

The commissioner replied: "Does American Horse know these things of his own personal knowledge, or has he been told them?"

American Horse said: "I was not there at the time before the burial of the bodies, but I did go there with some Indian police and many people from the agency, and we went through the battlefield and saw where the bodies were from the tracks of blood."

Rev. Mr. McCook, a Sioux half-breed, pastor of the Episcopal church at Pine Ridge, among other things, said: "Much has been said about the good spirit with which the members of the Seventh cavalry went into that action. It has been said that a desire to avenge Custer's death was entirely absent from their minds. In coming towards Chicago, in company with General Miles, I talked with his own scout, who was almost killed because he was compelled to fly with the Indians, being fired upon by the men whom he tried to serve and help. He told me that after he recovered from his fright and succeeded in getting among the soldiers after they all got in after the killing of the Indians, an officer of high rank, he did not know who, came to him and said: 'Now we have avenged Custer's death,' and the scout said to him, 'Yes, but you had every chance to fight for your lives that day. These Indian people did not have that opportunity to protect and fight for themselves.' If this is an indication of the spirit of a number of men in that company, I am sure the Seventh cavalry did not go there with the kindest of motives, simply to bring those poor people back."

After several others had spoken the commissioner declared the conference at an end.

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AUCTION SALE.

W. R. Clarke, Auctioneer.

I am instructed by the administrator, J. C. Prevost, Esq., to sell by public auction, at the Sale-room, Store street, opp. the E. & N. R. depot, on

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