PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Seventh Parliament.

TWENTY-SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, Dec. 20, 1894.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 p. m.

Prayers by Rev. Canon Beanlands.

Mr. Sword's motion for a return showing balances due on lands was agreed to after Hon. Mr. Turner had explained that the terms of the motion were not quite in accordance with the statement in the budget, and Mr. Sword agreed to accept a return in accordance with that statement.

In answer to Mr. Semlin, Hon. Col. Baker said the amount paid for government bookbinding since July 1st has been $1,520 30

MR. WILLIAMS, as a matter of privilege, called attention to an error in the COLONIST report of his speech of yesterday, by which he was made to say that the expenditure for civil government was 11 cents per head in British Columbia and $2 32 in Ontario—the figures having been transposed as evident from the context.

THE BUDGET.

MAJOR MUTTER resumed his remarks on the motion for committee of supply. He took up the challenge implied in the remark of one of the speakers of the opposition that none of the government's supporters had much to say in their defence, and he declared that he had no hesitation in stating his belief that the government are worthy of praise for the way in which they have managed the affairs of the province throughout the general financial crisis. He disagreed from the criticism made with respect to allowing travelling expenses to public officials, and asked if it is not the practice of every business house in the province.

MR. KENNEDY asked leave to explain that in his remarks he did not intend to object to travelling expenses being allowed, but merely objected to the plan of fixed allowances instead of making the officials hand in statements of expenses.

MAJOR MUTTER thought that even that will be found not to be required by many business houses, who are satisfied with allowing a fixed amount per day as is done by the government. He did not wish to deal at length with the financial affairs, which he would leave to members who had been longer in the house, but he did wish to speak at some length on a subject of great importance to the financial welfare of the country—the agricultural industry. (Hear, hear.) He showed the advantage that might be expected to result from the establishment of travelling dairies and creameries, which he thought might well be assisted by both the Dominion and Provincial governments. He had good reason to think that our government are quite well disposed towards giving such assistance, but before doing so they must be assured of the support of the house. He therefore asked every member, without regard to political considerations, to assist in encouraging this valuable new departure. He thought that one form of assistance which ought to well meet the case would be a system of bonuses of the product of the creameries for a few years—on a sliding scale diminishing year by year. He advocated the extension of the scope of the board of horticulture so that it might embrace agriculture also, and held that a board of this character would be found of the greatest advantage in connection, for instance, with such a matter as the spread of tuberculosis among herds of cattle such as has been brought to attention in this province lately. He dwelt upon the serious nature of this disease, which has been plainly shown to be communicable by animals to man and by man to animals, and while advocating the immediate destruction of every infected animal he thought that some measure of compensation should be made to the stock owner. He read from a letter received from Mr. G. Pentland, the chief inspector of stock in the colony of Victoria (Australia), giving interesting particulars of how they had dealt with tuberculosis in cattle there, containing these passages amongst others:

"MELBOURNE, Nov. 14th, 1894.

"*Major J. M. Mutter, M. P. P., Somenosdale, Somenos, British Columbia:*

"SIR:—In reply to your letter of the 13th October last I have the honor to enclose to you copies of our 'Stock diseases act' and regulations thereunder; also a copy of the report of the board appointed to enquire into tuberculosis in cattle.

"As regards the diseases in stock in one schedule of our regulations, I may state that we have eradicated scab from our flocks nearly twenty years ago under the regulations at page 15, which were very effective in dealing with this disease.

"Pleuro-pneumonia in cattle has been suppressed, or I might say almost eradicated, by means of inoculation—stockowners voluntarily inoculating their cattle themselves when outbreaks of the disease occurred. From our regulations you will observe that when disease is found or reported to the inspectors of stock affected herds are placed in quarantine and the animals showing disease destroyed. The suspected ones are isolated and the remainder of the herd inoculated in due course. We have not had to resort to the wholesale slaughter of herds as has been done in England and therefore no compensation has been paid to owners of diseased stock. You will further notice that the policy of our stock act is to destroy diseased animals—animals of a worthless character and liable to spread disease, and for such animals no compensation is given. These two diseases, then, scab in sheep having been thoroughly eradicated and pleuro-pneumonia practically so, an immense saving has been effected to the stockowners of this colony, estimated at the lowest I believe at a quarter of a million sterling annually.

"The only other disease that our government has had to contend with is tuberculosis in cattle, and the same principle is adopted with respect to it as in the case of the two diseases above mentioned. The principle is that cattle showing symptoms of tuberculosis are destroyed without compensation. . . .

"As regards the tuberculin of Koch as a test for discovering the early symptoms of tuberculosis it has never yet been tried in this colony, and its value as a reliable test is still, I understand, an open question. . .

"Our staff consists of practical men—stockowners originally, or stockowners' sons—men who have had practical experience in diseases in stock and can detect at a glance the diseases we deal with. They are accustomed to the bush and to muster and handle cattle running loose in mobs, as you must have seen when you were in Riverina, and are therefore better adapted for the purpose of stamping out diseases than veterinary surgeons whose business for the most part in these colonies in confined to horses.

"I shall be most happy to hear from you at any time and to give you any further information should you require it in regard to any action the government of British Columbia may have in view in the suppression of diseases in live stock. This colony was the first of any country in the world to deal with tuberculosis in cattle, a board of experts having been appointed, as you will see from the report herewith, who recommended that this disease should be placed on the schedule of contagious diseases." . .

A board of agriculture such as he suggested, Mr Jor Mutter continued, would be well qualified to deal with diseases in sheep and in other animals as well as in cattle. He hoped that steps would be taken to permit of the appointment of members of the legislature, if thought desirable, on such a board, the difficulty now in the way of this being that a member of the legislature could not accept reimbursement for his necessary travelling expenses while acting on the board. He thought that if the house would give the government the power to establish and carry on a board of agriculture, the result to that important industry would be most encouraging, and that when agriculture is made to flourish other industries in the province will flourish also. (Applause.)

MR. GRAHAM wished to deal with some of the remarks of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and at the outset admitted that he was the member mentioned by that hon. gentleman as having made an application for an expenditure of $51,000 for his district. He is willing, and he thought every member of the opposition is of the same opinion, to see money expended liberally upon roads, streets and bridges, notwithstanding the stringency of the times. He spoke of his personal experience of Hon. Mr. Martin in connection with the affairs of the lands and works department, and congratulated that hon. gentleman upon his appointment, complimenting him at the same time upon the disposition he showed to give fair consideration to applications brought before him. He disputed the statement that the electors of his constituency had been influenced by the sectional cry raised when the Island was found to have returned a solid delegation supporting the government, and held that on the other hand many who otherwise would have voted for him declared that it would be folly to return an opposition member after the government had been sustained. He disagreed from the contention of the previous speaker with respect to the meat of tuberculous cattle being unfit for human food, for he said that in Germany and elsewhere such meat is freely used without apparent injurious result. He proceeded to deal with financial affairs as outlined in the Budget, and argued in controversion of the deductions there presented. He dealt at some length with the Shuswap & Okanagan railway, pointing out the very low proportion of the rate on through freight which the C.P.R. allots to that road, and with respect to the manner in which the S. & O. enterprise had been aided by the government he read an extract he had copied from the confidential correspondence in the treasury department, from the financial agents in London, in which it is said that "both market and country will be influenced by the history of such undertakings as the Shuswap & Okanagan railway." He concluded by reading a composition in Scriptural language, amidst hilarious laughter on the part of the opposition, accompanied by thumps upon their desks when the humor most nearly approached blasphemy.

MR. ADAMS thought from the tone of the composition just read to the house that there was about it a good deal of the reverend politician so often heard of in company with the opposition. He did not doubt but that it had been dictated by that reverend gentlemen. While not pretending to be a financial authority himself, he could see the weakness of the calculations of the hon. member for East Lillooet. He had no doubt but that that gentleman is paving his way to be a Lord of the Treasury (laughter) when his friends get into power, but he should be more careful in laying his foundations. He rallied the opposition on the poor showing they have been able to make in their criticism of the government, especially as they had made a united endeavor in caucus every night last week. (Laughter.) He commended the government for the firm policy they have shown, and if he had any fault to find it would be that they have not been quite liberal enough in their expenditures for improvements throughout the country.

CAPT. IRVING in an interesting speech, frequently applauded, showed the absurdity of the opposition comparison of the expenditures in Ontario, with a population of over two millions and a well settled territory, with those of British Columbia, with its immense area and less than a hundred thousand of population. (Applause.) With respect to the constant talk of the representatives from Vancouver about government assistance for a dry-dock there, he would refer them to the example set by Esquimalt, where a marine slip built by private enterprise in the neighborhood of the dry-dock takes the greater part of the business, and can more economically and satisfactorily handle any merchant ships coming here except the Empresses. He put in a strong plea for more attention to Cassiar in the matter of government expenditures for roads.

MR. FORSTER contrasted the calculations and predictions of the Finance Minister in his budget speeches of former years with the actual results, and ventured the assertion that the Minister's expectations for the coming year, expressed the other day, will prove equally wide of the mark. He declared the government policy to be one of extravagance, though he would not say that the expenditure as a whole has been too large, but rather that the public has not had the proper benefit for the money which has been expended. He charged the government with securing their return by unlimited promises of whatever the particular localities desired—he would not say that these things were actually promised, for it was only the "regular Premier Davie promise," which amidst much laughter he illustrated by an amusing anecdote. He accused the government of making use of the road bosses to manipulate the elections, instead of depending upon the discussion of public policy. He claimed for the opposition members the sole credit for defending the rights of the cities in the legislature against the efforts of the applicants for special privileges. He claimed for them the credit also of having the wild land tax imposed. He accused the Attorney General of neglect of duty in not having the Chilliwack ballot box affair investigated, and held that in consequence "the name of Premier Davie will go down in history as the man who did his best to defile the ballot box in British Columbia." All that the opposition want, he concluded, is good government for the province, and they are ready to give full support to any good proposition from the government side.

MR. ROGERS wished to refer to a few matters in particular—first of all the election in Cariboo. He asserted that the opposition had ample time to canvass that district and had made the most active use of it, with a personally strong candidate, yet the result was that with three government candidates running for the two seats the opposition still could not secure one. He thought the miners of Cariboo are quite willing to pay the $5 tax which the opposition had objected to, particularly as there are so many Chinese in the country, who cannot be taxed differently from the whites. He emphasized the necessity for a railway into Cariboo, which now has to pay the almost prohibitory freight of $120 a ton on all the goods brought in there. He thought expenditure in this direction would come back to the government tenfold. The policy of the administration had, in his opinion, very properly been to advance this young country, and they are not to be blamed for going into debt so long as the expenditures are judicious, with no greater mistakes than individuals cannot avoid making at times. He would not favor bonusing the dairy industry, but thought that the government should rather hire a dairying expert to travel through the country and instruct the farmers. He favored expenditure in irrigation, but not until the railway work which he fully expected to see has been gone on with in that country, as there is sufficient available land without irrigation to supply the present wants of the mines. The policy of the opposition, he had come to the conclusion, is to discharge half of the officials and starve the rest of them. (Hear, hear! and applause.)

DR. WALKEM eloquently described the desperate efforts of the opposition in the campaign which led up to their complete rout in the recent general elections. He charged Mr. Forster with having secured his nomination for Nanaimo at the previous election by hoodwinking the miners in their convention, and with betraying them by joining the opposition without any endorsation by the electors after having been sent to the house as an independent. He dwelt upon the sectional cries so largely used by the opposition on the Mainland, and also described at length their tactics in endeavoring to avoid the threatened leadership of the junior member for Vancouver. He humorously criticised the material of the seventeen planks of the opposition convention, especially plank 7, "that candidates shall have no qualification other than that of electors," which he considered is plainly illustrated by the calibre of the oppositION. He cleverly dealt with the financial calculations of the prentice hand who has succeeded in deposing the junior member for Vancouver from the position which after the leadership of his party he most coveted—that of their financial critic. He thought, however, that the official critic on the other side had found his task rather beyond his capacity, which seems better suited to deal with such a proposition as, "If a herring and a half be worth three ha'pence, what are a dozen worth?" (Great laughter and applause.) That, however, is evidently not the opinion of the gentleman himself, who seeks to give an impression of such an extent of knowledge that one cannot fail to be reminded of the couplet:

"And still they gazed and still the wonder grew,
That one small head could carry all he knew."

(Great laughter.) Dealing with the seriously increasing expenditure for educational purposes, he felt that in the near future the government will have to adopt some new policy, perhaps to set aside a quantity of lands for school purposes as they do in Manitoba. While the opposition have been proclaiming themselves, as heard in the house to-day, as the champions of the rights of the cities against the claims of would be monopolists, he would call attention to the fact that one of their chief lieutenants, Dr. Milne, is at this very moment a petitioner to the house against allowing the corporation of Vancouver to interfere with a monopoly in which he is interested. (Hear, hear.) He criticised the attitude of the opposition in contenting themselves with finding fault with the policy of the government, but suggesting nothing in substitution, for it is easy, he said, to take an axe and smash a cabinet to pieces, but a difficult matter to build another one up. He would like to know why they are afraid to mention their policy.

MR. WILLIAMS—Because the government would steal it. (Great laughter.)

HON. MR. DAVIE—Would it do any harm if the government gave the public the advantage of your ideas? (Hear, hear.)

DR. WALKEM continuing said South Nanaimo is now for the first time receiving something like its due in the way of public expenditure (opposition laughter), but he did not hold that the government has been altogether to blame. He considered that the reason was that the district has heretofore been misrepresented by members who did not know how to present its wants. He had no hesitation in saying, however, that he considered the government would be to a large extent justified in not favoring constituencies declaring no confidence in them—in fact if he were in power he would be inclined to administer punishment in some of the worst of these cases. (Great laughter by the opposition.) He concluded amidst applause by expressing confidence in the general policy outlined in the budget.

THE SPEAKER asked "Are you ready for the question?" and this being thrice repeated without response, he pressed the button which by setting the division bells ringing shut off further debate. The motion being put was agreed to without division. Before leaving the chair the Speaker mentioned that this being a new house it would devolve upon the committee to select a chairman.

HON. MR. DAVIE thereupon moved that Mr. Eberts be chairman of the committee of supply. The motion was put by Hon. Mr. Martin, and it having been unanimously agreed to Mr. Eberts took the chair.

The first resolution, granting $129,540 for public debt—interest, was proposed by Hon. Mr. Turner and carried without remark, the Finance Minister then (5:45 p m) suggesting that the Chairman "see 6 o'clock."

The Chairman was about to do so, when someone questioned the regularity of the procedure, holding that the Speaker should declare the intended recess. The Speaker being called in for advice the Chairman declared "I was about to see 6 o'clock by request" "I shouldn't like to disagree with you," returned the Speaker, and therefore I say it is 6 o'clock," and as the Sergeant-at-Arms hastily restored the temporarily forgotten mace to the presiding officer's desk the house took recess.

After Recess.

The Speaker took the chair at 8 o'clock.

MR. KENNEDY introduced a bill to further amend the New Westminster act, 1888. Read a first time.

HON. MR. TURNER presented a return of the special warrants issued during the recess.

The house again went into committee of supply, Mr. Eberts in the chair.

THE FIFTH MINISTER.

On the item of $4,000 for a Minister of Education and Immigration (an office combined with another portfolio since the death of the Hon. John Robson), Mr. Semlin asked for some explanation as to why this vote is taken year after year when the office is not required as shown by the fact that it is not filled.

HON. MR. DAVIE replied that it is not expected that there always will be a state of depression such as that prevailing to-day; in fact he had every reason to believe that this state of things will cease to exist before the time covered by these estimates is up. Another minister will certainly be a desirability when the circumstances of the country require it. Some comparisons have been made with Ontario in the matter of the cost of civil government, and without going into the matter at length he wished to point out that apart from the contrast in territory and population the circumstances are very different indeed. The amount quoted as the cost of civil government in this province covers the salaries of officials in all parts of the province—not merely of the staff at Victoria, whereas in Ontario the amount voted for civil government salaries is almost altogether for the staff at Toronto, who are very liberally treated indeed. The hon. gentlemen opposite seem to forget that in Ontario there are an immense number of urban and rural municipalities, each administering the affairs of its particular district, and thus dividing up the cost of services which in British Columbia are performed at the charge of the provincial government. Yet at the seat of government in Ontario they have a very large staff, compared with which the staff at Victoria is simply nothing. In view of the fact that it is intended to establish a bureau of mines, and the expected development in that line of industry, it would naturally follow that the several offices now combined under one minister will again have to be divided, for it is not to be supposed that one man can always combine all these departments. The one thing certain is that the government will not fill the office if the position of the country does not justify it, and as he had said before he fully believed that such a condition will be found to exist before the vote now proposed to be taken will lapse.

The vote of $1,800 for a crown attorney was made the text for reviving the discussion on the Chilliwack ballot box affair, carried on in such a fashion as to lead Dr. Walkem to describe Mr. Kitchen as "chewing the rag." Mr. Williams finally moved to strike out the item, but his motion was lost on division.

TUBERCULOSIS IN CATTLE.

The vote of $2,400 for inspectors of contagious diseases in animals brought a question from Mr. Semlin as to what the government intend to do in the matter of compensating owners of animals killed.

HON. MR. DAVIE said this was one of several matters he had intended to refer to in the budget debate if that had not been cut short unexpectedly by the tactics of the opposition in putting forward the little fish to speak first and reserving their great gun until all the members of the government should be heard from. This matter of compensation is one which rests with the Dominion government under the contagious diseases act, and if the Province takes it up the result may be that it will simply be left with us by the Dominion. Last session strong pressure was brought to bear on the Dominion government to have them include tuberculosis in the schedule of diseases for which compensation may be made to the owners of cattle destroyed. This year another attempt will be made by nearly every province in the same direction. With respect to the cases developed in Victoria lately, the government were asked to give compensation for animals which it was proposed to kill, but had replied that now there is no provision of the law by which this can be done, and that a change in the law of the Province cannot well be made, for the reason above given that should the Province once assume the responsibility the Dominion might be disposed to leave it with us. They had told the applicants that this government will do the best possible with the Dominion authorities, and that they will have an examination made into the condition and value of every animal killed, so that any compensation to be allowed could be awarded at the proper time. If the cattle turned out to be diseased the province would assist the efforts to obtain compensation as above indicated; if on the other hand any of those killed turned out to be free from disease the provincial government undertook to pay the full amount of their value. This eminently fair offer—which included also compensation for the time spent in quarantine—was first of all agreed to; but later the gentleman who owned the animals receded from the agreement and they have not yet been killed. If the hon. members opposite advocate compensation by the Province for all animals killed or suspected they will find that they are advocating a burden which the people simply will not submit to.

After a lengthy discussion on the general subject the item passed.

PROVINCIAL LIBRARIAN.

MR. SEMLIN moved to strike out the vote of $1,800 for the provincial librarian and secretary to the Premier, but after Hon. Mr. Davie had explained the advantage of having such an officer the motion was lost.

MR. SEMLIN further opposed the passage of the item, and Mr. Williams then made a complaint against the librarian that an article belittling the opposition and bearing the signature of "R. E. Gosnell" had appeared in a Winnipeg paper. He considered it highly improper for a servant of the legislature to have taken this part in political affairs. Hon. Mr. Davie explained that the article in question originally appeared in the Canadian Magazine at Toronto, and when attention was called to it the Provincial Secretary immediately wrote an official letter to Mr. Gosnell asking an explanation. The answer showed that the article was not Mr. Gosnell's at all, and his connection with it was merely that—without considering the nature of its contents—he had forwarded the manuscript to the editor of the magazine with a letter introducing the writer, a gentleman of Vancouver. By some misunderstanding Mr. Gosnell's name was attached to the article by the editor. After some further criticism the item passed.

The remainder of the appropriations for civil government salaries were agreed to without discussion, and the committee rose and reported.

The house adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

TWENTY-THIRD DAY.

FRIDAY, December 21, 1894.

Petitions respecting the regulation of the liquor traffic were presented by Mr. Macpherson and Mr. Williams.

EXPLANATION.

MR. GRAHAM rose in explanation of the incident thus reported in yesterday's COLONIST: "He concluded by reading a composition in Scriptural language, amidst hilarious laughter on the part of the opposition, accompanied by thumps upon their desks when the humor most nearly approached blasphemy." He declared that in reading the composition mentioned he had no intention of blaspheming, and regretted that any person should have so understood him.

SUPPLY.

The resolutions reported from committee of supply yesterday were read and adopted.

The house again went into committee of supply, Mr. Eberts in the chair.

The item of $1,500 for the Speaker's sessional allowance was objected to by Mr. Semlin, who thought it should not have been increased from the former amount of $1,000. The objection did not find favor, and the item passed.

On the item of $19,800 for the sessional indemnity of $600 for each of the 33 members, Mr. Kennedy objected to paying this allowance to the ministers. Mr. Prentice moved to cut down the sum to $400 all round; and Mr. Kennedy thereupon protested that $600 is not too much for the members, and that he merely wished to cut it off from the ministers. Hon. Mr. Davie jocularly asked Mr. Prentice if he would draw the whole $600 should his motion be defeated, but Mr. Sword rebuked the Premier for the question, because the estimates now being voted are not for this session. "I never thought of that," returned Mr. Davie, amidst general laughter; "the member for East Lillooet is going to resign at the end of this session, and he may not intend to offer again or may not anticipate re-election." Mr. Hunter also thought the economical amendment "a nice way to get cheap notoriety." Mr. Cotton vehemently declared that such insinuations should not be made in the house, and Mr. Hunter referring to the warmth of language of the last speaker jokingly spoke of "the member for Vancouver popping up every time his safety valve opens." He understood the position of that gentleman, because he remembered a little bit of poetry supposed—no doubt wrongly—to have been addressed by the Speaker at the close of the last session, and which ran, with reference to the member for Vancouver:

"He looks as sweet as honey—
The only one in all the crew who does not care for money."

(Great laughter.) This brought an objection from Mr. Williams, who did not wish to be mistaken for the member thus described; but Hon. Mr. Davie assured him that the description could not apply to him, "as everyone knows that he has no safety valve at all." (Laughter.) Mr. Kennedy again protested that this discussion was all a mistake, as his suggestion of economy was directed only against the ministers; and Mr. Macpherson declared himself against the reduction just moved. The amendment by Mr. Prentice being put after a further interchange of chaff, met with a very faint response to the call for "ayes," and was declared lost, the item passing.

With respect to the vote of $1,000 for journals and statutes binding, Mr. Semlin asked what the government proposed to do about the binding for the future, and whether the practice is to continue of giving out the work without contract. In reply the Premier stated that the government will probably undertake their own binding in the near future, so that the controversy as to the proper prices would thus be ended. A long discussion ensued, the debate of last session and the report of the committee which then investigated the matter being gone into in detail. Mr. Cotton complained that his bindery—that of the News-Advertiser—had not been invited to tender, and declared that this had been because of direct instructions to the government printer to make the omission. Mr. Davie in reply said there is no foundation whatever for such a statement, and if the News-Advertiser was not asked to tender it no doubt was because it was not known to the officer calling for the tenders that the company was in the binding business. The item passed after further debate.

The next discussion was on the vote of $16,200 for the maintenance of the asylum for the insane, Hon. Col. Baker explaining that an increase in the amount was rendered necessary in order to carry out the recommendations of the royal commission. Mr. Semlin suggested that the government were at fault, in having so long "slept upon" the irregularities going on there; but Hon. Mr. Davie pointed out that time after time the grand juries have visited the institution and reported it to be conducted properly, and when these and other visitors were misled by the appearances it was no wonder that the government had been similarly satisfied as to its condition. Mr. Kennedy incidentally stated that only two weeks before the session opened he went through the institution with Dr. Bentley, the superintendent, and saw no evidence of mismanagement.

When the votes for education were considered Mr. Kitchen took exception to that of $800 for the school at Chilliwack (addition), taking the ground that it is not needed, the school not now being more than half full. Col. Baker in reply stated that it is the intention to raise the standard of the institution by making it a graded school.

Under the head of public works, Dr. Walkem objected to the vote of $1,200 and other appropriations for Government House, Victoria, holding that the expense should be borne by the Dominion government, who have the patronage of the office. Hon. Mr. Davie in reply said he hoped that in time the Dominion government may be induced to undertake the expenditure, as has been requested by some of the other provinces, but in the meantime the institution must be properly kept up.

The committee rose at 5:30, having passed during the afternoon the votes from No. 26 to 162, including these heads:

Administration of justice salaries	$131,854
Legislation	29,900
Public institutions maintenance	48,590
Hospital and charities	43,950
Administration of justice other than salaries	62,709
Education	203,205
Transport	10,550
Rent	48
Revenue services	10,009
Public works (in part—$93,800)	

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:

To make valid and binding an official map or survey of the city of Nanaimo—Mr. McGregor.

To amend the wide tire act, 1893—Mr. Rogers.

The house took recess at 5:35 p.m.

After Recess

The house met at 8:30 p m., and again went into committee of supply, Mr. Eberts in the chair, proceeding with consideration of the appropriations for public works—roads, streets, bridges and wharves.

MR SEMLIN made an appeal for extensive expenditures in West Yale in addition to those provided for; and Mr. Hume a similar application for West Kootenay South, the latter pointing out the large contributions to the revenue made by his district. Mr. Kellie defended the appropriations for his riding of West Kootenay North, against the attack made upon it the other day by the member for Vancouver (Mr. Macpherson). He said that the North riding could be proved fully equal in importance to the South, and if the latter has developed faster for a time it is simply because it has had the advantage of American capital. He pointed out that not only has the South riding had liberal expenditures in the past for waggon roads, but it has had the benefit of the immense expenditure on the Nakusp & Slocan road, which was built simply to open out the mines of the Slocan in South Kootenay. He thought it is now the turn of the North riding, and that if the government will deal as liberally with it during the next few years as they have with the South in the past, the result will be even greater development there.

With respect to the ferry subsidies Mr. Semlin advocated saving this annual expenditure by building bridges even if the money for this purpose has to be borrowed.

Respecting the appropriations in aid of agricultural societies, Mr. Semlin suggested a change in the direction of aiding agriculture through these organizations—perhaps rather than through agricultural and horticultural boards. Hon. Mr. Turner differed from him in this opinion, as he thought an agricultural board would be of the greatest advantage, and it might possibly be even better to put the distribution of these grants in the hands of the agricultural boards, who will be in the best possible position to say where the money may be applied to the greatest advantage. He had been told that some small shows were got up simply to get in prizes what little money the government gives by way of assistance.

The vote of $250 for the flockmasters' association was the subject of questioning, and Hon. Mr. Davie explained that this is for the encouragement of sheep raising, which is now engaging considerable attention particularly on Vancouver island—at Comox and Duncan's and elsewhere. Major Mutter explained that this vote will assist the association in looking after the interests of the many flocks already established, and in their efforts to improve and maintain the quality of the stock.

In answer to Mr. Semlin, Hon. Mr. Davie explained the increase in the vote asked for immigration purposes, consisting of $5,000 for salaries and contingencies of the London office, and $4,000 for miscellaneous expenses. He stated that Mr. Beeton who for a great many years has been the Agent-General of this province in London, without remuneration, has resigned the office, on account of old age creeping upon him. It is a matter of the utmost importance that British Columbia should have a good representative there, and it is not to be supposed that another man such as Mr. Beeton can be secured except upon the payment of a fair remuneration. Who will be appointed he could not say at present, but the house may rely upon it that in making the selection the government will choose only such a man as will creditably perform the duties of the office. He thought it indisputable that apart from the regular duties of the position a great amount of benefit would result from the advertising of the province which its agent in London would be able to judiciously direct. Hon. Col. Baker further explained, in answer to a suggestion by Dr. Walkem, that for the future the London office of this province will probably be at the Imperial Institute.

MR. KITCHEN objected to the amount of $500 additional for the Chilliwack court house, because he said it was not what was wanted there, and would be a burden to keep up, while it is in such a position that it will be constantly exposed to danger of destruction by fire. He declared he had never spent any time in the cells, but that he feared if a man were to be kept over night in one of them he might be dead in the morning. Hon. Mr. Davie explained to Mr. Kitchen that the people of Chilliwack seem to appreciate the building, and that only a few weeks ago they applied for permission to use it as a council chamber, offering to keep it in order.

The committee rose and reported, having passed all the remaining appropriations, those put through at the evening sitting including the following totals:

Public works	$224,400
Miscellaneous	97,100
Supplementary estimates 1894 95	247,785
Over-expenditure for 1893-94	134,791

The house adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

OWING to the large number of tickets already sold for the concert to be given by the James Bay Junior Lacrosse Club on the 27th instant it was decided last night that the Victoria theatre should be secured for the occasion. A great deal of interest is being taken in the event, and already the following ladies and gentlemen have kindly offered to take part in the programme: Miss S. Smith, Mrs. McCandless, Miss Wolf, Miss Murray, Mr. Clement Rowlands, Mr. Edgar Buck Mr. W. R. Higgins, Mr. J. G. Brown, Mr. J. Pilling, Mr. Ernest Wolf and Dr. Wade's musical club. One of the features will be a lacrosse tableau by several members of the club. Hon. J. H. Turner has kindly promised to present during the evening the intermediate championship lockets won this year by the James Bay team, who it may be mentioned are all native born British Columbians.

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