

to the change of names after notice had been given however.

Mr. Oliver explained that the only change was that of Mr. Helmecken, who was understood to be sick. He was agreed to the committee as first drafted standing.

Mr. Dickie declined to act, and Mr. Clifford, of Cassiar, was substituted. The motion carried.

Questions and Answers.

Mr. Tatlow asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions: Has the government cancelled the reserve which covers the coal and oil lands in Southeast Kootenay? If so, when? If not, is it the intention so to do?

In reply Hon. Mr. Wells said: "There has been no reservation of any lands in Southeast Kootenay cancelled. The cancellation of any reserves has not yet been considered."

Mr. Tatlow asked the Minister of Finance the following questions: 1. What was the overdraft at bank on December 31st, 1902; January 31st, 1903; February 28th, 1903; March 31st, 1903, respectively? 2. What amount of cash was in the treasury, or in the hands of agents, at these dates? 3. What rate of interest is being paid the bank on said overdraft?

Hon. Mr. Prentice replying gave it as follows: "1. December 31st, 1902, account current, \$1,490,436.04; by bank account, \$205,964.53; total, \$1,505,099.57. January 31st, 1903, account current, \$1,490,436.04; by bank account, \$205,964.53; total, \$1,505,099.57. February 28th, 1903, account current, \$881,182.19; by bank account, \$213,084.47; total, \$1,094,866.66. March 31st, 1903, account current, \$1,024,732.07; by bank account, \$220,501.28; total, \$1,245,233.35. Note—On 1st April, 1903, a payment of \$777,000 was made from the proceeds of the loan, thereby reducing the overdraft on that date to \$867,733."

"2. December 31st, 1902, cash in agents' hands, \$69,275.07; in treasury, \$8,315.24. January 31st, 1903, cash in agents' hands, \$60,178.24; in treasury, \$11,298.37. February 28th, 1903, cash in agents' hands, \$55,298.06; in treasury, \$12,634.32. March 31st, 1903, returns not received; in treasury, \$31,485.32."

"3. Four per cent. per annum."

Mr. Tatlow asked the Minister of Finance: "At what price were the provincial bonds purchased by the trustees for the sinking fund in January, 1901; January, 1902; January, 1903?"

Hon. Mr. Prentice replied: "January, 1901, 92; January, 1902, 92½; January, 1903, 90½."

Mr. Tatlow asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works: "Do the government propose extending the benefits of the 'South African War Land Grant Act, 1901,' to persons who have since the passage of that act gone to South Africa in the same capacity as those who went before the passage of the act and are entitled to the benefits thereof?"

The Hon. Mr. Wells gave the direct reply: "Yes." (Applause.)

Mr. Oliver asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works: 1. Was there at any time since September 4th, 1901, any crown grant or grant of land in favor of the Columbia & Western Railway Company for any lands in blocks 4503 and 4504, Southeast Kootenay? 2. If prepared, was the grant or grant of land by the Lieutenant-Governor? 3. Was any grant or grant of any of these lands handed over to the company? 4. Was any grant or grant of any of these lands ever in the possession of the railway company? 5. Was any grant or grant of any of these lands cancelled? 6. Have any crown grant or grants of any of these lands been issued to any person or persons besides the railway company? If so, to whom, and how many acres to each?

The Chief Commissioner asked the question to stand promising an answer at the next sitting of the House.

In Committee.

The House then went into committee of the whole to consider the bill intituled "An Act to amend the Assessment Act."

With Mr. Hunter in the chair, and recommended the introduction of the bill, which was read a first time and set down for second reading at the next sitting of the House.

The "Small Holdings Act" followed the same course.

Second Reading.

The second reading of "An Act to amend the 'Liquor License Act, 1900,' was carried."

Mr. McBride called attention to other amendments to the "Liquor License Act."

Hon. Mr. Eberts promised that other amendments would be introduced later.

The House then adjourned until 2 o'clock to-day.

Smith, Curtis, M. P. P., and Joseph Martin, M. P. P., have arrived in the city. Their presence in the House will lend more interest to the proceedings.

The attitude of the latter will be watched with considerable interest.

At this afternoon's sitting of the House leave will be asked to introduce bills as follows:

Hon. Mr. McInnes—"An Act to further amend the 'Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1898.'"

Hon. Mr. Green—"An Act to further amend the 'Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1898.'"

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immunities taken place between this government and the Dominion government in reference to a resolution of this House of May 3rd, 1901, advocating the removal of the few Indians occupying a reserve on False Creek, within the limits of the city of Vancouver, on fair terms to the Indian interested? 2. If not, will the government again bring the matter to the notice of the authorities at Ottawa, in order to assist the Vancouver representative at Ottawa to gain that object?

Mr. Kidd will ask the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works: 1. Have any leases for foreshore been issued by this government up to the present date (6th April, 1903), for the purpose of salmon fishing by traps or otherwise? 2. If so, how many have been issued, to whom, and for what locations?

Hon. Mr. Prentice has several amendments to propose in committee of the bill intituled "An Act to Amend the Assessment Act."

A caucus of the government members was held this morning. The government supporters were satisfied with the result of the bill. It was in attendance thus setting aside any doubts as to its being favorable to the government policy.

Neither Mr. Neill nor E. C. Smith attended the caucus, though members of the government profess they did not expect them to be there.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

In the legislature yesterday afternoon the debate was confined largely to a discussion of the question of Oriental legislation. This was in connection with the second reading of a bill intituled "An Act to Regulate Immigration into British Columbia," introduced by Premier Prior.

A bill intituled "An Act Relating to the Employment of Women Carried On Under Paragraphs Granted by Private Acts," brought in by Hon. W. W. B. McInnes. The legislation contained in this bill was disallowed by the Dominion government, which is being re-enacted by the provincial government.

Joseph Martin took occasion during the debate to attack the position taken by supporters of the Dominion government during the Burrard election, that the acts were disallowed for Imperial reasons.

Hon. Mr. McInnes defended the stand taken by members of the Dominion cabinet, contending that enough had appeared to show that this ground was justifiable. In this connection the name of Senator Templeman was introduced.

Smith Curtis wanted the principle enunciated in the act, and urged that it be incorporated in the supply bill as a more efficacious method of having it respected by the Dominion cabinet. This latter part of the motion was voted out of order.

Prayers were read by Rev. J. H. S. Sweet.

Capt. Tatlow asked that the answer given by the Minister of Finance as to the finances for the last half year be printed. This was agreed to by Hon. Mr. Prentice.

Petitions.

The following petitions were laid on the table:

By Mr. Mounce, from Claud Elliott and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate "The Adams River Railway Company."

By Mr. Stables, from R. L. Patterson and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate "The British Columbia Northern & Mackenzie Valley Railway Company."

By Mr. Dickie, from the Pacific Northern & Omineca Railway Company, for leave to introduce a private bill to amend their Corporate Act.

By Mr. Dickie, from John Irving and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate "The Pacific Northern & Omineca Railway Company."

The following petitions were received: From "The Kootenay Central Railway Company," for a private bill to amend its Corporate Act.

From A. A. Holland and others, for a private bill to incorporate "The Morrissey, Fernie & Michel Railway Company."

From C. H. Pollen and others, for a private bill to incorporate "The Kootenay, Cariboo & Pacific Railway Company."

From "The Vernon & Nelson Telephone Company," to amend their Corporate Act.

The petition from Alex. N. Anderson and others, asking for a grant in aid of a road to Langley Prairie and Clover Valley, was ruled out of order.

Committees.

The standing committees for the year were named as follows:

Private bills and standing orders—Messrs. Helmecken, Dickie, A. W. Smith, Gilmour, McPhillips, Tatlow and Kidd.

Printing—Messrs. A. W. Smith, Stables, Dunsmuir, Clifford, Dickie, Rogers, Houston, Hunter, Ellison, Neill, E. C. Smith, Taylor, Green, Munro, Curtis, Peterson, Semlin, Hawthornthwaite, Gifford and Garden.

Railways—Messrs. Hunter, E. C. Smith, Dunsmuir, Clifford, Stables, Gilmour, Ellison, Houston, Rogers, Hayward, McPhillips, Fulton, Garden, Green, Munro, Taylor, Gifford and Peterson.

Public accounts—Messrs. Hall, Neill, Mounce, Patterson and Curtis.

Printing—Messrs. Houston, Hayward, Mounce, Semlin and Tatlow.

Agriculture—Messrs. Ellison, Hayward, Neill, A. W. Smith, Kidd, Oliver and Semlin.

Ministerial matters—Messrs. Helmecken, Houston, Hall, Mounce, Oliver, Garden and Munro.

First Readings.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time and set down for a second reading at the next sitting:

"An Act to further amend the 'Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1898.'"

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"An Act to amend the Medical Act, 1898," by Mr. Hayward.

Mr. McBride moved: "That an order of the House be granted for a return of all orders in council, correspondence and other papers relating to Deadman Island, Burrard Inlet."

Upon the return being presented by Hon. Mr. Wells, Mr. McBride complimented the Chief Commissioner upon the promptitude with which it had been prepared. It involved a lot of work, and was in marked contrast with the delays of last session.

A. E. McPhillips moved, in the absence of Mr. Helmecken: "That an order of the House be granted for a return of a copy of the judgment delivered by the Privy Council in re Toney Homma."

Mr. McPhillips also moved: "That an order of the House be granted for a return of all correspondence between the government of the province of British Columbia, or any member thereof, and the government of the Dominion of Canada, any member thereof, touching the settlement of the Alaska boundary."

Premier Prior promised to bring down the information the next day.

Questions Answered.

Mr. Oliver asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions: 1. Have any applications been received for leasing coal, oil or timber land in blocks 4503 and 4504, Southeast Kootenay, since the reserve was placed on said blocks? 2. If any applications have been received, how many, and for what acreage? 3. Have any leases been given? 4. If so, how many? 5. To whom have the leases been given, and how many acres to each lease?

Hon. Mr. Wells replied as follows: "1. No applications have been received for leases of coal or oil lands in those blocks 4503 and 4504 (aggregating 9,900 acres); 2. none; 3. none; 4. none; 5. no leases have been given."

Mr. Tatlow asked the Minister of Finance the following questions: 1. Has the whole loan authorized by the 'British Columbia Loan Act, 1902,' been placed? 2. If not, how much has been placed? 3. At what price, and on what terms, has it been placed? 4. What will be the net amount realized by the province, after deducting the interest and other expenses? 5. What amount has been received on account of said loan to 31st March, 1903?

Hon. Mr. Prentice replied as follows: "1. Yes; 2. full amount, £721,000 (\$3,406,850); 3. at 92 per cent. interest from 1st July, 1902, redeemable in 1914; 4. £642,445 (\$3,116,828); 5. £248,670 (\$1,201,103)."

Capt. Tatlow on a question of privilege asked that the questions which he had asked had not been fully answered.

There was apparently a misunderstanding. The question of privilege was ruled out of order by the Speaker.

Mr. Oliver asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions: 1. Was there at any time since September 4th, 1901, any crown grant or grant of land in favor of the Columbia & Western Railway Company for any lands in blocks 4503 and 4504, Southeast Kootenay? 2. If prepared, was the grant or grant of land by the Lieutenant-Governor? 3. Was any grant or grant of any of these lands handed over to the company? 4. Was any grant or grant of any of these lands ever in the possession of the railway company? 5. Was any grant or grant of any of these lands cancelled? 6. Have any crown grant or grants of any of these lands been issued to any person or persons besides the railway company? If so, to whom, and how many acres to each?

Hon. Mr. Wells replied as follows: "1. Yes, but subsequently cancelled. 2. Yes. 3. No. 4. No. 5. Yes. 6. Crown grants have been issued as follows: Kootenay Valleys Co., Ltd., 565 acres, lot 2345; James A. McDonald, 183 acres, lot 2346; James A. McDonald, 146 acres, lot 2347; D. Howard McAlister, 205 acres, lot 2348; Geo. S. McCarter, Henry G. Parsons and Robert Milligan, 602 acres, lot 3,049; Fernie and E. Freeman, 100 acres, lot 3,054; Malcolm McCormick, 262 acres, lot 4,832; James A. Kousen, 430 acres, lot 5,237; Henry Bentley, 117 acres, lot 5,238; Charles H. Levers, 640 acres, lot 5,239; George Walker, 640 acres, lot 5,240; Orson W. Jones, 307 acres, lot 5,455; Samuel Graham, 22 acres, lot 5,813; all groups of lands in the district of Burrard Inlet."

Mr. Neill asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions: 1. Does the reserve placed on all crown lands on Graham Island by the 'Liquor License Act, 1900,' still exist? 2. If so, will the government, in view of the demand for provincial lands and minerals, cancel this reserve?

Hon. Mr. Wells replied as follows: "1. Yes. 2. The matter has not yet been considered."

Immigration.

The second reading of "An Act to Regulate Immigration into British Columbia," was introduced by the Premier.

In moving its second reading he called attention to the fact that this act was the same as that introduced by the government last year. He supposed the member for Vancouver (Capt. Tatlow) would contend that this was his bill.

Capt. Tatlow was asked to see that the government had adopted his measure.

J. Hunter said he would oppose the bill. It was a ridiculous position for the legislature to take after its having been disallowed by the Imperial authorities last year. He had promised the Trades and Labor Council he would oppose this, and he was prepared to do so.

Mr. McPhillips thought the competitor of the Imperial authorities in this act should have been tested for a year. Provision was made for such an appeal, and he thought it should have been taken advantage of.

Mr. Neill said down in the papers returned that the act was disallowed because it was ultra vires.

Mr. McBride admitted they had been remiss, but they were now prepared to act.

The debate then drifted along the lines of the relative merits of the Conservative and the Liberal parties at Ottawa on the question.

Smith Curtis urged that there was nothing to show that the government was in earnest, inasmuch as one of the

members of the government was opposed to this act previously. The Premier apparently was unaware of the meaning of the act. He was reported to have understood that it applied to both Chinese and Japanese.

The compact entered into with the Japanese government whereby Japanese immigration was to be restricted was useless. Japs might ship to Honolulu, to San Francisco or to Seattle, and then come to British Columbia. It was, therefore, a waste of time.

Hon. Jos. Chamberlain's objection to the measures passed were not that they sought to exclude aliens, but that Chinese and Japanese were specifically named, thus giving offence to a friendly power. Mr. Chamberlain contended that even if the Natal Act was not strong enough they might pass a stronger one, but they must omit to name these people.

It had been urged that corporations had a "pull" at Ottawa, and it was way influenced this legislation. But it was shown last session that