Provincial Legislature

Many Bills Passed—Session Is Drawing to a Close.

The House in Committee of Supply Passes Principal Votes.

Legislative Chamber, June 19, 1902.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 10.30 a. m.

Hon. Col. Prior introduced a bill to permit free miners to mine for gold in black sand.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite asked the Hon. the Minister of Mines the following questions:

1. As it is now well known that gunpowder and, to a less extent, dynamite are dangerous explosives in coal mines, owing to the amount of flame and gas developed on firing, is it the intention of the government to take steps to make compulsory the use of a flameless explosive?

2. As a number of "blow-out" shots are known to occur through improper "tampering" and "cleaning," is it the intention of the government to instruct inspectors to draw the attention of shot-lighters and fire-bosses to this matter, and see that proper clay or other suitable and safe "tamping" is provided, and that holes are properly cleaned before loading?

3. Has any system of testing safety lamps been adopted by the different coal companies, and, if not, is it the intention of the government to see that some system is adopted at earliest moment, and also a systematic and safe method of locking safety lamps?

The Minister of Mines replied:

1. On the 27th of May last the following wire was sent to Mr. Henry Hall, H. M. inspector of mines, in Lancashire, England: "Kindly write me particulars of the best non-flammable blasting powder used in gaseous and dusty coal mines. Also any information about dust explosions you consider important." (Signed), E. G. Prior, minister of mines. Mr. Hall is the acknowledged authority in Great Britain on dust and gas explosions and the causes of same.

2. The goevrnment is waiting to see the evidence given at the Fernie inquest before taking any action.

3. No special system of testing safety lamps is in vogue in British Columbia, but the matter is receiving the attention of the government.

Hon. Mr. Eberts said the Colonist had made an error in making him say that the State of Washington had proposed to contribute towards the establishment of fish hatcheries in the province. The proposal was made by the State Inspector of Fisheries on behalf of the Washington canners.

TRADE UNIONS.

On the report on Mr. Martin's bill respecting Trade Unions, Mr. McInnes moved the following amendments, which stood in the name of Mr. Houston, who was absent:

"5. All trade unions in British Columbia shall be registered under the provisions of the Trade Unions Act of the Dominion of Canada within sixty days from the date that this act goes into effect; and any trade union organized after such date shall be so registered within ninety days after the date of its charter.

"6. Any trade union refusing or neglecting to so register shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars, and shall not be entitled to the benefit of the provisions of this act."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite opposed the amendments on the ground that such registration was unnecessary, and would only add several thousands of dollars annually to the Dominion treasury without any benefit in return.

Mr. Martin also opposed the amendments, which he claimed would nullify the bill. He was very doubtful as to the jurisdiction of the Dominion with regard to trades unions.

Mr. McInnes supported the amendments. The argument that a large sum of money would be contributed to the Dominion treasury, had no weight as the fee for registration was only $4.

Mr. Curtis strongly opposed the amendments. He did not believe the Dominion government had any right to assume jurisdiction over trade unions.

The amendments were lost and the bill was read a third time and passed.

TRIAL BY JURY.

The House went into committee of the whole to consider Mr. Martin's bill providing for trial by jury in cases under the Mineral Act, Mr. Fulton in the chair.

The bill was reported complete with amendments, of which the most important are as follows:

"2. In any action or suit brought in any court under the provisions of section 27 of chapter 135 of the revised Statutes of British Columbia, being the Mineral Act and amendments, notwithstanding anything in the said act and amendments contained, in all cases where two or more persons have obtained certificates of work for the whole or portion of the same claim the title thereto shall be decided under the provisions of section 27 of the Mineral Act.

"3. Nothing in this act contained shall be held or construed so as to affect any litigation now pending."

The title was changed to An Act to Amend the Mineral Act.

SUPREME COURT.

A bill amending the Supreme Court Act with regard to the sittings of the Appeal court at Vancouver and Victoria was put through committee, Mr. Rogers in the chair, and was read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at noon until 2:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved to discharge the bill to amend the Coal Mines Act.

Mr. McPhillips objected, arguing that the amendments were necessary to the development of the petroleum deposits of the province. There were many men of capital ready to embark in the petroleum industry if proper encouragement was given to prospectors. There were rumors that the C. P. R. had designs on the petroleum lands of Southeast Kootenay, and that might account for the apathy of the government.

The bill was discharged on a vote of 13 to 10.

COLUMBIA & WESTERN.

The Columbia & Western Subsidy Bill was discharged on motion of Hon. Mr. Wells.

WATER CONSOLIDATION.

Hon. Mr. Wells moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Water Clauses Consolidation Act. The bill was referred to committee of the whole, Mr. Clifford in the chair, and was reported, read a third time, and passed.

COMPANIES' ACT.

Hon. Mr. Eberts moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Companies Clauses Act, which he explained was in line with legislation adopted by the Dominion and Ontario governments. It was intended to relieve members of companies from vexatious actions for neglecting to make returns, and other matters under the act. It was a well known fact that certain parties had taken advantage to the penalty clauses of the act to prosecute actions against members of companies who should not be held accountable for the neglect of the officers of the company. The bill, and that amending the Companies Act, was the work of Mr. Curtis, who, at his suggestion, had consented to its being brought down by way of message from the Lieutenant-Governor.

The bill was then passed through all its stages and passed. A similar bill to amend the Companies Act was reported complete from committee of the whole.

A FURTHER EXPLANATION.

Mr. McBride, rising to a question of privilege, said the report of his remarks regarding a despatch which appeared in the Vancouver World, and which he had read to the House on Wednesday, was not sufficiently explicit. He had said that there was no foundation for the report, that there was an arrangement between the government and the opposition, and further, that the coalition or fusion suggested was utterly impossible.

A DELAY.

Mr. McBride complained that the government were not ready to go on with business, and continued to criticize the government for its dilatoriness until called to order.

The trouble was caused by the orders of the day not being ready.

KITIMAAT & HAZELTON.

The bill to aid the construction of a railway from Kitimaat to Hazelton was taken up in committee of the whole, Mr. Hunter in the chair.

The bill provides for the construction of a railway from a point on Kitimaat inlet by the most convenient and feasible route to a point at or near Hazelton on the Skeena river, by a grant to the Pacific Northern & Omineca railway company of five thousand dollars for each mile of railway (not exceeding one hundred and thirty-five miles) constructed between Kitimaat Inlet and Hazelton as hereinafter set out, the said aid to be paid in cash or by debentures or inscribed stock of the province, which the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council is hereby empowered to issue, which shall be accepted at par value, shall bear interest at three per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, and the principal thereof shall be payable in fifty years from the date of issue.

Several amendments were adopted, making the bill conform with the other railway aid acts passed this session.

The bill was reported complete, and was ordered to be read a third time at next sitting of the House.

MIDWAY & VERNON.

The bill to aid the construction of a railway from Midway to Vernon was put through committee of the whole, Mr. Hunter in the chair, and reported complete with amendments.

The bill provides granting aid for the construction of a railway from Midway to Vernon, by a grant to the Midway & Vernon Railway company of five thousand dollars for each mile of railway (not exceeding one hundred and fifty-two miles) constructed between Midway and Vernon as hereinafter set out, the said aid to be paid in cash or by debentures or inscribed stock of the province, which the Lieutenant-Governor in Council is hereby empowered to issue, which shall be accepted at par value, shall bear interest at three per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly, and the principal thereof shall be payable in fifty years from the date of issue.

IRON SAND PLACERS.

The bill to amend the act to encourage the extraction of iron from magnetic sand was put through the committee, and read a third time and passed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House went into committee of supply, Mr. Hunter in the chair.

On the item, Surveyor of Taxes and Inspector of Revenue, Mr. Oliver moved to reduce the sum from $2,100 to $1,920.

Mr. McBride supported the amendment. He did not wish to be understood as making any complaint as to Mr. McKilligan's ability, but officers who had been longer in the service, for instance Mr. Robinson, superintendent of education, was getting only the same salary.

The item passed.

Some criticism was offered as to salaries of governments agents and gold commissioners, which in some cases were claimed to be too small, but none of the items were changed.

Mr. Rogers made a plea for the officials in the Cariboo agency.

The committee rose at 6 o'clock and the House adjourned until 8:30.

NIGHT SITTING.

The House resumed supply.

The votes covered by Statement B, civil government salaries were passed without change, $263,280.

Administration of justice salaries, $121,112 was also passed.

Legislation (Statement D), $44,195, went through without opposition.

On the item, hospital for the Insane New Westminster, $66,270, Mr. Hawthornthwaite made a strong complaint of the employees of the asylum, declaring that some of them were worse paid than Chinamen.

Hon. Mr. Prentice said the salaries were considerably larger than those of similar institutions in the East, and none of the attendants were compelled to remain if they found the wages too small. The government had found it necessary to reduce the expenses of the asylum, and he was happy to say that under the new management the expenses had been reduced considerably, while the efficiency of the staff had been much improved.

Mr. Murphy complimented the government on the improved management of the asylum.

Mr. Kidd said there were no vacancies on the staff of the asylum, and if one occurred at any time there were numerous applications for the place. That would not lead to the belief that the attendants were underpaid or overworked.

Mr. McBride gave the government credit for trying to reduce the expenses of the asylum, but he would ask the Hon. the Minister of Finance to carefully consider the cases of the minor officials.

Mr. Oliver was surprised to hear honorable members who voted want of confidence in the government for extravagance, now condemning them for practising economy.

Mr. Curtis asked the government to make some provision for the blind.

Mr. Hayward urged the necessity for the establishment of a home for aged women.

The vote for maintenance of public institutions, $128,590 passed.

Votes to hospitals and charities, $74,800, passed without comment.

Administration of justice, other than salaries, $110,900, was also adopted.

Education, $412,140 was voted without serious opposition.

Transport, $21,200, revenue services, and collection of revenue, $17,000, were adopted.

The statement, $662,200, for public works, was in its details submitted to considerable criticism, several members objecting to the votes for their constituencies.

The item of $30,000 for Point Ellice bridge caused a good deal of criticism. It was held by some members of the opposition that the vote was a sop to the city to influence the Victoria by-election.

Mr. Helmcken made a strong plea for the city, arguing that the heavy damages sustained by the disaster at the old Point Ellice bridge was due in some measure to the carelessness or neglect of the government of that day.

Mr. Martin strongly opposed the item and moved to have it struck out.

Mr. Hall added patent arguments to the claim of Victoria for assistance in replacing the Point Ellice bridge.

Hon. Mr. Wells drew a parallel between the New Westminster and the Point Ellice bridges, holding that the latter, though in a lesser degree, was a proper subject of government aid, as both were links in main highways.

Mr. Oliver said he sympathized with the people of Victoria, but he protested strongly against the government's refusal to vote a small amount of aid to the bridge in his constituency.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite appealed to the sympathy of the House. Victoria had met with a serious misfortune, and it should be the pleasure of every member of the House to support the vote.

Mr. McPhillips gave the government no credit for the vote. He charged that the amount was promised to the city as an election cry, and not for any sincere desire of helping the city.

Hon. Mr. Prentice—Then vote against it.

Continuing, Mr. McPhillips declared the vote was not brought down because the government believed the city was entitled to it, but because they wished to influence the electors in the by-election. The other day it was proposed to vote $50,000 to relieve the survivors of the Fernie explosion, but there was no talk of voting anything like a similar amount to Victoria, which had suffered a greater loss in her Point Ellice bridge disaster. The vote was in the right direction, but it was not enough—$30,000 was a paltry sum to vote for this very necessary public work. He hoped there would not be a dissenting voice to the vote.

The item was passed.

The item for North Victoria, maintenance and repairs of roads and bridges, caused considerable discussion on account of the seat being vacant, but it was passed without amendment.

The committee rose at 11:45.

Mr. Martin asked that his bill to amend the Mineral Act be recommitted in order to offer an amendment.

Mr. McPhillips strenuously opposed the motion, as the bill had been read a third time.

Mr. Martin pointed out that the third reading was passed in his absence on the motion of Mr. McInnes, who had acted in good faith, but in error.

Mr. Speaker said it seemed to him the bill had passed its third reading by mistake and the House was competent to rectify the error. He would defer his ruling.

Mr. McInnes said he had had no authority to move the third reading, but took it upon himself to do so in order to facilitate business.

The House adjourned at 12:15 a.m., until 11 o'clock this morning.

Legislative Chamber, 11 a. m., June 20, 1902.

Mr. Hayward called the attention of the government to a private letter which he had just received, in which it was stated that the Duke of Argyle had expressed a wish to send out a small colony of fishermen from the West Coast of Scotland, whose passages he would pay, if the government of British Columbia would see to their proper reception and settlement at some convenient point on the Coast.

Hon. Mr. Eberts said the government would be pleased to make arrangements to secure such a desirable lot of settlers and if Mr. Hayward would favor the government with a copy of the letter they would forward it to Hon. J. H. Turner, agent-general, with instructions to take all necessary steps to promote the scheme.

Mr. Speaker decided, with regard to Mr. Martin's bill to amend the Mineral Act, that the third reading could not be discharged.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The House resumed the voting of supply and proceeded with the appropriations for public works, roads, streets and bridges.

Mr. McBride complained of the small vote for Dewdney, which he claimed was not sufficient to maintain the roads and trails. He considered $12,000 should be voted instead of $6,000.

Mr. E. C. Smith considered $14,500 for Southeast Kootenay far too small, and urged that the vote be doubled.

Hon. Mr. Wells explained that the government proposed this year to spend the appropriations on repairs and maintenance, for which the vote was amply sufficient, being $9,000 more than was voted last year for the same service.

Mr. McBride and Mr. Green also protested strongly against the smallness of the vote.

Hon. Mr. Wells said he had received several letters from residents of the district complimenting the government on the good work done on the roads, trails and bridges.

Mr. Taylor objected to the vote for Revelstoke Riding, $14,500, stating that it was wholly inadequate.

Mr. Curtis made the same objection to the appropriation for Rossland, $14,500.

Mr. McBride thought the vote for the Cariboo road, $26,000, was not sufficient to keep the road in proper repair.

On the item, $50,000 contingencies for works and buildings, roads, streets, bridges, wharves and surveys, Mr. McBride took occasion to attack the government on the $30,000 aid to Point Ellice bridge, reiterating the charge that the money was given as a sop to the electors of Victoria to influence their votes in the by-election. He made a general attack on the government's policy, and insinuated that the $50,000 might be used for improper purposes.

Mr. McPhillips warned the government that the country would closely watch the disposition of this money.

Mr. Oliver asked if the salaries of road superintendents were to be paid out of this fund?

Hon. Mr. Wells explained that the government were constantly in receipt of applications and propositions for public works in various parts of the province and it was absolutely necessary to have a fund available to pay expenses of investigation, and in urgent cases to meet the cost of necessary work.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite desired to deny a statement attributed to Mr. Greenshields by an Eastern newspaper. He (Greenshields) was reported to have said that times were dull in British Columbia on account of labor troubles and labor legislation. The statement was absolutely false and misleading, and was rendered the more outrageous by the fact that Mr. Greenshields was the paid agent of the government. He hoped no more public money would be paid to this gentleman.

On the item, $6,000 for advertising, Mr. McBride asked if the government had cancelled the contract for advertising with the Colonist, on account of an article which appeared recently in that paper?

Hon. Mr. Prentice replied in the negative.

Mr. Martin said many of the advertisements published in the newspapers were utterly valueless.

Hon. Mr. Prentice said many of the advertisements were published by the newspapers for the information of their readers, and were not paid for.

Mr. McPhillips made a virulent attack on the Colonist, declaring that its reports of the debates were deliberately garbled and the utterances of the opposition perverted and twisted to meet the views of the government, who dominated the policy of the paper. He was particularly severe on the "Obstruction" supplement, which he declared was a tissue of falsehoods and misrepresentation, and a gross outrage upon the privileges of the House.

Mr. McPhillips worked himself up to a condition of concentrated indignation, in which his robust baritone reverberated through the Chamber like Heaven's artillery among the mountain peaks.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite defended the Colonist. He said the paper had given as fair a report as could be expected of a very trying and extraordinary session. Mistakes were made, but they were unavoidable in any newspaper report. It was unfortunate, perhaps, that the custom of the newspaper was to report in extenso only those portions of the debate which favored the side of politics which they supported. He suggested that a Hansard might be established.

On the item for stationery, Messrs. Stables and Martin complained of the quality of the envelopes furnished to members.

The House adjourned for luncheon at 1:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

On the items of grants to agricultural societies, Mr. Fulton asked the government if they would not deem it advisable to devote expenditure to aiding one provincial exhibition in each year, instead of dividing the appropriation among a number of small shows, which only illustrated local effort.

Mr. Hayward endorsed Mr. Fulton's remarks. He was in favor of encouraging district exhibitions, but would like to see an annual provincial exhibition which would fittingly represent the agricultural, live stock and industrial resources of the province.

Hon. Mr. Prentice said the suggestion was a good one, and was receiving his careful consideration. He hoped by next year to be able to formulate some scheme which would meet the views of all concerned.

Mr. Fulton pointed out the necessity of the government issuing definite information in the way of maps and descriptions of all the lands in the province available for settlement.

Hon. Mr. Wells said the government were preparing just such information for the use of intending settlers.

On the item of $20,000, Provincial Board of Health, including salaries, Hon. Mr. Eberts explained that the province had been forced to expend between $8,000 and $9,000 for salaries of preventive officers along the border during the threatened invasion of smallpox from the United States and the East. These officers had been appointed in an emergency, but should have been appointed and paid by the Dominion government. It was hoped that the authorities at Ottawa would recognize the claim of the province to be reimbursed for the expenditure thus forced upon it. He was pleased to say that the provincial officers had succeeded in stamping out the disease at such a small outlay; Ontario had expended some $750,000 for the same purpose.

On the vote of $1,500 for School of Mines at Rossland, Mr. Hawthornthwaite urged that a school of coal mining be established.

Hon. Col. Prior replied that the subject was under consideration.

The item of $40,000 for the Eburne bridges was opposed by Mr. Oliver on the ground that the original estimates called for only $25,000.

Hon. Mr. Wells explained that in the first place it was expected that most of the old piers would be utilized, but it was found on uncovering them that they were so defective that a much greater amount of work was necessary.

Mr. Oliver insisted that the extra cost was due to the negligence or incompetence of the public works engineer.

Mr. Kidd was not prepared to say that the government were in the wrong in the matter. He gave a history of the Eburne bridges, and of the negotiations between the government and the municipality of Richmond, which resulted in the present contract. The Richmond council did not think it would be necessary to replace the whole structures, but it was found on examination that the timbers were rotten and would have to be replaced. At the same time he did not know why the bridges should cost $65,000, of which the government was providing $40,000. He thought the work might have been let to better advantage.

Mr. McBride understood that McLean Bros. were doing the work on what was known as a "forced contract," which gave an opportunity for the making of extras. The work should be let by tender.

Hon. Mr. Wells said tenders were called for in the first place and McLean Bros'. bid was the lowest. Then when it was found necessary to do extra work it was thought fair that it should be given to McLean Bros. It would have been impracticable to have divided the work between two firms. McLean Bros. were doing the work on government estimates and were to receive 10 per cent. commission.

Mr. Munro did not approve of work being let in an irregular way. It created suspicion and dissatisfaction, and should be avoided in the future. He instanced the case of certain dyking in his constituency in which money had been needlessly wasted, and urged that in the future the government should consult the people of the district before undertaking any further work on the dykes.

Some discussion was caused by the item $4,798.49 for compensation for loss sustained in opening a marble quarry on Texada Island, resulting from an error in issuing a lease for land which had been already crown-granted.

Mr. Martin objected to the amount having been paid by special warrant, holding that it was not one of the emergency cases provided by law.

Hon. Mr. Wells explained that the case was one which called for immediate settlement in order to save the government from a heavy claim for damages.

The vote for valuing and classifying dyking lands, $1,500, also came in for a good deal of opposition criticism, Mr. Oliver especially scoring the government for their policy with regard to dyking.

The remaining items of the main estimates were agreed to, and the committee rose and reported, and the votes were concurred in.

SOLDIERS' CLAIMS.

Hon. Col. Prior introduced a bill to amend the South African War Land Grant Act, which was put through all its stages and passed.

FALSE CREEK FORESHORE.

Hon. Mr. Wells introduced a bill to authorize a grant to the city of Vancouver of certain lands on the foreshore of False creek, which was put through committee.

On the second reading, Mr. Garden explained that the land was bare at low tide and entirely valueless unless improved.

The bill was read a second time.

SUPPLEMENTARIES.

A message was received from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting the supplementary estimates.

RAILWAY BILLS.

The Midway & Vernon and the Kitimaat & Hazelton railway bills were read a third time and passed.

The House adjourned at 6:20 until 8:30 p.m.

NIGHT SITTING.

Mr. McPhillips asked the government the following questions:

1. Is it a fact that the government has in contemplation the retirement or superannuation of Sheriff McMillan?

2. Is it a fact that it is in contemplation to appoint Mr. Frank G. Richards to the vacancy when created?

3. Has any application been made for the position by Mr. Frank G. Richards, or by any one on his behalf?

Hon. Col. Prior replied to the first question, that a sum had been placed in the supplementary estimates for the purpose referred to.

Mr. Kidd asked the government the following question:

On what date was the order of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council passed apportioning and defining the sections of the route of the Columbia & Western railway from Trail to Penticton?

Hon. Mr. Wells replied the 20th June, 1897.

The supplementary estimates were then taken up in committee of supply, Mr. Hunter in the chair.

Mr. Oliver questioned the item $20,000 for maintenance of dykes.

Hon. Mr. Wells replied that the amount should have been placed in the main estimates, but had been omitted. It was absolutely necessary to provide funds to keep the dykes in repair, and be prepared for every contingency.

Mr. McBride was pleased to note that the government had acceded in a measure to his argument in favor of more generous treatment to his constituency, although he had expected at least $8,000 instead of $3,500, the amount of the additional vote.

Mr. Green congratulated the government on the additional vote to Slocan of $2,500.

Capt. Tatlow was gratified at finding a vote of $2,500 to complete the Barnet-Hastings road.

Mr. Garden thanked the government on behalf of the militia of Vancouver for a grant of $1,000 for the purchase of land for the Drill hall site.

On the item, $1,900 for expenses of Coronation celebration, Hon. Col. Prior said they had hoped the Sixth D. C. O. Rifles would have come over from Vancouver to take part in the ceremonies. He was informed, however, that the regiment would be unable to come, and the government proposed to cut down the amount to $1,500.

Mr. Garden suggested that the vote be allowed to stand. If the Sixth regiment was not able to come, the $400 might be donated towards the Vancouver celebration.

The item, $1,900, passed.

Mr. McPhillips would have been pleased to see an item to cover the expenses of the Hon. the Premier at London. It appeared to him undignified that the province should not pay the expenses of her representative at the Coronation of His Majesty, the King.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite congratulated the government on their promptitude in providing $3,000 for a commission to enquire into the cause of accidents in coal mines.

Mr. McPhillips did not consider the amount provided as a superannuation for Sheriff McMillan, $50 per month was too small. He paid a very high tribute to Mr. McMillan's ability, and the valuable services which he had rendered the province.

Mr. Oliver opposed the item. He did not believe in superannuating public officers.

Hon. Col. Prior fully endorsed Mr. McPhillips remarks as to Sheriff McMillan's value as an official, and his sterling worth as a citizen.

Hon. Mr. Eberts said Mr. McMillan had been in the service of the government for over 20 years, and had never been in receipt of more than $700 to $1,000 a year. Mr. McMillan was an old and tried officer, and it was only right that the government should provide for him in his declining years.

Mr. Rogers complained that Mr. Cowan's superannuation allowance of $20 a month was far too small, and he hoped the government would see their way clear to increase it.

Mr. E. C. Smith would like to see the principle extended to all civil servants, or to see it abolished.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite hoped the government would put the civil service on a firm, fair basis, as that of Great Britain. He hoped to see the principle of old age pensions extended to all classes of workers.

The item passed.

Mr. Helmcken endorsed everything which had been said in praise of Sheriff McMillan, and suggested that Mr. Siddall, his deputy, would make an excellent successor to the office.

The rest of the items were passed, and the committee rose and reported. The items were then concurred in, and the supply bill was passed.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were put through the final stages and passed:

To amend the Companies' Act.

To amend the Companies' Clauses Act.

To aid the Kitimaat & Hazelton railway.

To aid the Midway & Vernon railway.

To aid the Fernie Townsite Confirmation Act.

To confirm the title to Vancouver of a portion of the foreshore of False creek.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

On the third reading of Mr. Helmcken's bill to amend the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Incorporation Act, Mr. Martin moved an amendment that the act be enforced only in incorporated cities.

Mr. McPhillips opposed the amendment.

The amendment was carried.

Subsection A of section 2 was struck out on motion of Mr. Helmcken.

The bill was reported complete with amendments, and passed its third reading.

PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.

On the report on the Provincial Elections Act, Mr. Hayward moved to strike out the following words:

"Provided, however, that where the nomination paper is subscribed, in addition to the proposer and seconder, by at least five per cent. of the registered electors of the same district, as assenting to the nomination, the said deposit of two hundred dollars shall not be necessary or required."

The amendment was carried.

Mr. McPhillips moved to strike out section 5.

The amendment was lost.

Capt. Tatlow moved to strike out section 11, which provides that young men of 18 years shall be entitled to vote.

The amendment was carried by a vote of 16 to 5.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

LIVE STOCK BREEDERS.

Mr. McBride's bill for the Protection of Breeders of Live Stock was resumed in committee.

Mr. Martin moved to strike out the sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, which was carried.

The bill was then reported and passed the third reading.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

Hon. Col. Prior moved the following resolution, which was carried with cheers:

Whereas Canada, the greatest of the self-governing dependencies of the Empire, whose extensive seaboards on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans render naval protection of vital importance to her very existence, has from the very beginning of her history had the benefit of such protection afforded by the Royal navy without contributing anything to the cost of maintenance thereof:

And whereas the further continuance of such a state of affairs is not only undignified, but it is incompatible with the present standing of our country as a prosperous nation:

And whereas British Columbia, the largest of the provinces of Canada, embraces within its boundaries the whole of Canadian territory bordering on the Pacific Ocean, and is therefore more concerned in the naval supremacy of the Empire than any other province of confederation:

Be it therefore resolved, that the time has now arrived when Canada should assume her fair share of the cost of the naval protection afforded as above-mentioned:

And be it further resolved, that the contribution to be made by Canada towards the attainment of the above object should primarily take the form of establishing and maintaining reserves for the Royal navy at such points in the Dominion as are best suited for that purpose, and, if possible, that training ships for boys should be supplied and maintained at these points:

And be it further resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to communicate with His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council, asking him to take such steps as will bring about the attainment of the above objects.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

This cleared the order paper and the members, relieved from the strain of a long and wearisome session, joined in singing the National Anthem supplemented with three hearty cheers for His Majesty.

PROROGATION.

The House adjourned at 11:45 p. m. until noon tomorrow, when His Honor, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere will assent to the bills passed, and prorogue the House.

NOTES.

Several of the members left by this morning's Charmer for the Mainland.

In the report on the discussion of the vote of $30,000 to aid construction of Point Ellice bridge, Hon. Col. Prior's remarks were inadvertently omitted. Col. Prior strongly supported the vote, which he said the government deemed no more than justice to the City of Victoria.

Before the city limits were extended to take in the Point Ellice bridge, it was handed over to the city by the provincial government, and prior to that transfer the provincial government had arranged with the Tramway company for them to use the bridge. The bridge, he said, was used by the Imperial troops at Esquimalt, and was the only road into the city for a large population living on the northwest of the city.

PROVINCIAL GAZETTE.

Appointments of Which Notice was Given in Yesterday's Issue.

Yesterday's issue of the Provincial Gazette contained notice of the following appointments:

David Brownlee Lazier, of Atlin, M.D., to be resident physician at Atlin, vice Dr. Gustave Lewis, resigned.

Colborne Dennis Jarvis, of Nelson, to be a clerk in the Land Registry Office at the said city.

Andrew Colville of Morrissey, to be a member of the Board of Examiners under the Coal Mines Regulation Act Amendment Act, 1901, at the Coal Creek coal mine, vice Edward Barton.

Thomas Henderson, of Nelson, to be a clerk in the office of the Mining Recorder at the said city.

Joseph Edward Bird, of Vancouver, barrister at law, to be a notary public in and for the province.

The proclamation of the Governor-General, fixing Thursday next as a public holiday to be observed as a day of public thanksgiving and rejoicing, is published for general information.

The Lands and Works Department is calling for tenders for the erection of school houses at Atlin, Barnet, Fernie, Kimberly, Mount Sicker and North Arm.

Lists of dairies on the Mainland to which certificates of health have been granted by Inspector Gibbons, and those who do not comply with the law, are printed.

Notice is given of the incorporation of Henderson Bros. Limited, to take over the wholesale drug business of the McDowell, Atkins, Watson company, of Vancouver, and Henderson Bros. of Victoria and Vancouver. The capital is $400,000.

The Mount Baker & Yale Mining company of Whatcom, Wash., has been registered as an extra-provincial company. The British Columbia office is at New Westminster and R. L. Reid is the attorney. The capital is $25,000 in one cent shares.

Baby's Own Tablets

FOR CHILDREN'S STOMACH TROUBLES.

Disease attacks the little ones through the digestive organs. Baby's Own Tablets are the best thing in the world for all stomach and bowel troubles of children. They act quickly and gently, and always cure indigestion, colic, constipation and diarrhœa. They are also a great help to teething children.

Mrs. C. W. Tefft, Markham, Ont., says:—"Up to the time my baby was a month old, he was a fine, healthy baby. Then indigestion developed and he grew thin and looked pinched. His tongue was coated, and his breath offensive. He vomited curdled milk and was also troubled with constipation. After taking his food he would always cry with pain, and although he always appeared hungry his food did him absolutely no good. He was very restless and sleepless and kept me up day and night. We tried several medicines but nothing did any good until we got Baby's Own Tablets. After giving him these he began to improve almost immediately. His breath became sweet, his tongue clean; the vomiting ceased; his bowels got regular, and he began to gain weight and is now quite healthy and rosy. Baby's Own Tablets wrought this beneficial change, and I would not now be without them in the house."

Guaranteed to contain no opiate or harmful drug. Crushed to a powder they can be given to the smallest, feeblest child, with a certainty of good results. Sold by all druggists or sent post paid at 25 cents a box by writing direct to

The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co.,
Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y.

Coronation Celebration

Attendance From Outside Cities Will Be Largest on Record.

Tacoma Y.M.C.A. Charter Steamer to Bring Large Party From There.

It is predicted by those who are in touch with the traveling public that Victoria will have more visitors next week than have been in this city in a given week for many a long day. The coronation celebration to be held here is attracting a great deal of attention in the States, from Washington to the Southern boundary of California, and also further East, while no doubt there will be many here from the provincial Mainland and points on the Island. The committees having the arrangements in hand are getting things into shape and are meeting with the greatest success. On Monday the work of decorating the city will be commenced by an energetic and efficient committee, and all that is required is the co-operation of the business men to make this a leading feature of the celebration and show Victoria to her guests in her very best garb. Already some decorations are going up, notably those at the Savoy theatre.

Yesterday the finance, decoration and printing committees met and attended to some of the details in connection with the celebration. There were present at the meetings Mayor Hayward and Messsr. Worthington, A. J. Dallain, S. Redgrave, Chief Watson, G. Jeeves, McDonald, T. W. Walker, J. C. Darling, W. J. Hanna and C. H. Lugrin.

The finance committee appropriated the various amounts recommended by the citizens' committee.

A letter was received from the secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at Tacoma stating that the association had chartered the steamer City of Seattle to bring an excursion to the city on Coronation Day, and that they expected at least 800 passengers. Excursions are also being arranged from other points on the Sound, Mainland and Island.

The question of transportation to Macaulay Point on the morning of the 26th, when the review is to be held, has been settled through the B. C. Electric and E. & N. railway companies co-operating. Trains will leave the E. & N. depot, Store street, every 10 minutes from 9:30 in the morning, and will connect with cars for Macaulay Point at Russell's station. In this way the round-about route by Rock Bay and Point Ellice bridges will be avoided. The fare for the round trip will be 20 cents.

The state ceremonies at the parliament buildings will commence at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, so that those who attend the review will be able to get back in time for the ceremonies. In the evening it has been arranged to have bon-fires on Cedar and Beacon Hills, to be lighted at 9 o'clock. It is estimated that the fire on Cedar hill will be seen at least 100 miles away. There will also be a band concert at the government buildings in the evening.

The printing committee reported that the celebration had been well advertised in the nearby cities, while the Tourist association have been making it known in the States further away.

CAUSE CELEBRE.

All day yesterday the counsel for the defendants in the suit of Harris v. Dunsmuir continued their arguments on behalf of the appeal brought in that action before the Full court. Mr. Fred Peters, K.C., who had addressed the bench for the greater part of the day previous, concluded his argument in the afternoon, and was followed by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K. C., who goes on again this morning. At noon their Lordships overruled Mr. Peters' objection, which was based upon the fact that James Muirhead, who had been on the jury at the first trial, when a $20,000 verdict was given for the plaintiffs, was also a special juryman at the third trial, at which the amount of the plaintiff's judgment was but $9,000, as it appears that the same juryman cannot sit twice on the same case, if objected to.

In chambers, Mr. Justice Drake presided yesterday morning and granted probates of the wills of Peter Steele, deceased, and of the late Mr. Speaker J. P. Booth, of Salt Spring Island.

The argument on the Craigflower road injunction was again postponed for one week.