Weekly Colonist
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1887

DON'T WANT TO BE SHELLED.

San Francisco *Post*: A member of the naval committee in the house has introduced a companion to the fishery retaliation bill, in the shape of a bill appropriating $50,000,000 for the construction of the new navy. Certainly, if we are going to issue a challenge to a great naval power, we ought to be ready to back it up. There should be a liberal appropriation for ships and another for fortifications. San Francisco sympathizes deeply with the Gloucester fishermen; we should like to see them disport with the effusive mackerel and the retiring cod unmolested by any piratical Canadian equipped with a long, low, rakish craft and a vice-regal proclamation, but at the same time we have a prejudice against seeing a squadron drop down from Esquimalt and deposit half-ton shells in the Palace hotel. It would be paying too much for our mackerel. Let us have the defenses, therefore, and then we shall be able to carry chips on our shoulders as long as there is anybody in sight who might care to knock them off.

UNPLEASANT TRUTHS.

M. Paul de Cassagnac is a hard hitter. In *L'Autorite* of a recent date, he addresses France in the most impassioned terms. Contrasting her position with that of Germany, he says: "You boast that you are ready; you deceive yourselves. You may have soldiers in abundance, plenty of muskets, more ordnance than you need. Your officers may be equally brave and better trained than they were in 1870. You may have the material means of making war; but you lack the spirit, and that spirit which you lack they possess. Look and see what they have, and what we have not. I see on their side unity of race, unity of government. Ten peoples gathered round the venerable emperor, their honor and their glory. The Germans do not find their nation split in halves, and with them one-half does not oppress the other half in its rights, in its future, in its belief. With them the army is respected, and not flattered, as it is elsewhere. When war does break out the men step out confidently behind their chiefs. They have not to hunt out a commander from among a few shame-faced generals, expurgated in consequence of our civil discords, conscious of the system of delation that enfolds them, and trembling at it. Their chief is ready. He is there. It is not the favor of demagogues; it is victory that has selected him for his command. The German people can, indeed, say, 'We are ready.' It is not the number of soldiers, the number of guns, that give faith in itself. It knows that with money all that is easily obtainable. But what the German soldier feels a pride in is the consciousness that if he has to fight he fights for God, kaiser and fatherland, and if he is shot he is spared the disgust of reflecting when he breathes his last that he has lost his life to fatten a hungry band that usurp power, and gratify miscreants who grudge him even a chaplain on the battlefield. They are ready. When you say that you are—you lie to yourself."

THE TWO RULES.

The net public debt of Canada in 1873, the year that the Mackenzie government assumed office, was $99,843,461; when it retired from power in 1878 the net debt was $140,362,069, an increase of $40,518,608, or a yearly average increase of $8,103,721. When the conservative government came into power in 1878, the net public debt was $140,362,069; on July 1, 1885, the last year for which the accounts are available, the net debt was $196,407,692, an increase in seven years of $56,045,623, or an average annual increase of $8,006,516. The amount of provincial debts assumed by the Dominion during the time that the liberals were in power was $4,927,060. During the conservative term the amount of such debts was $7,177,717. These items constitute merely a transference and not an enlargement of liability. The total expenditure, during the liberal term, upon public works chargeable to capital was $33,588,932, or $6,773,137 less than the increase of the debt. That is to say, the present government added to the permanent obligations of the country nearly seven millions more than they expended upon public works having for their object the development of trade and cheapening of the cost of transportation. During the time the conservatives were in power the capital expenditure upon public works was $73,608,455, or $17,552,832 more than the addition to the debt. In other words, the administration of the present government has resulted in an investment of seventeen and a half millions in railways, canals, and miscellaneous public works of utility and direct benefit to the people, in excess of the increase in the fixed charge upon the country. In 1873 the assets of the Dominion amounted to $29,894,970, and yielded an average rate of interest of 1.56 per cent. In 1878 the assets had increased to only $34,595,199, and the average rate of interest was 1.63 per cent, a gain in five years of $4,700,229 in assets and an increase of .07 per cent in the rate of interest. During the next seven years, under conservative management of public affairs, the assets mounted up to $68,295,915, an addition of $33,700,716, or within a fraction of 100 per cent, while the average rate of interest yielded augmented to 3.94 per cent, an increase of 2.38 per cent. When the liberal party came into office the average rate of interest payable upon the public debt was 5.09 per cent, and five years later they had reduced it to 4.65 per cent, or by .44 per cent, while during the succeeding conservative term the average rate of interest on the debt has been cut down to 3.80 per cent, or by .85 per cent. That is the record of the two parties in relation to the public debt and the capital expenditure. On the one hand the liberals added to the liabilities of the country many millions more than they spent on public works, enlarged the assets only a trifle, and effected but a small reduction in the rate of interest the debt bears, or in other words did not materially lessen the cost of carrying it. On the other hand the present government has expended nearly twenty millions more upon public works than was added to the debt, doubled the assets, and so reduced the rate of interest on the debt that it involves not a cent more of charge per head of population than it did in 1878, while in the interval the Canadian Pacific railway has been completed, provincial liabilities assumed, and important works completed in every section of the Dominion. This is a showing which should commend itself to the electors of British Columbia in the forthcoming elections.

SOME WEATHERLY REMARKS.

A cold wave has struck us, and, from the looks of things, intends to stay.

The icicle has taken the place of the violet, and snow-banks are common.

Coal-dealers are jubilant, and house keepers pull long faces over fuel bills.

Linen dusters have been discarded, and overcoats have been brought out from the camphor closet.

Hot drinks are in order, and ice-creams are at a discount.

The gaudy parasol has given place to the over-shoe, and furs have advanced in value.

Just now hot coffee takes better than iced lemonade, and the stove has more attention than the refrigerator.

The mud-scraper has retired from business and the snow-shovel is busy.

Blankets are more comfortable than mosquito nets, and the coal-hod is used more than the fly-catcher.

Youngsters now go in for snow-balling, that pastime having superseded marbles.

Sleigh-rides take the place of moonlight rambles, and a sofa before the fire is a better seat than the rocks on Beacon Hill.

The mercury in the thermometer has fallen and obstinately remains down.

But when this cold snap passes we'll forget it, and "our beautiful climate" will receive its customary credit. "Italian skies" will again reign supreme.

THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Proceedings of the First Session of the Fifth Parliament.

MONDAY, Jan. 31st.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:10 p.m.

Prayers were read by the Venerable Archdeacon Scriven.

Mr. Ladner presented the petition of 132 settlers of Sumas for the repeal of the Sumas dyking act.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Mr. McLeese, resuming the debate on Mr. Beaven's amendment to the fifth clause of the address in reply to his honor the lieutenant governor's speech, said he desired it to be put on record that he entered his protest against the charges of the C. P. railway. He could speak as one who had suffered pecuniarily from those exorbitant rates and how anyone could support the clause in question and vote for those high rates he was at a loss to understand. Parties in his district bringing goods from Montreal have had them shipped to Port Moody in order to obtain advantage of the through rates and then shipped back to Ashcroft. The same complaint could be made against the passenger rates. A gentleman from his part of the country, who had occasion to go east last summer went down to Ashcroft to purchase his ticket. At that place he was asked $80 for a second class ticket to Montreal, but instead of purchasing it he went down to Port Moody, where he purchased the same ticket for $50. It was a remarkable thing that not one of the newspapers in the province, with the exception of the one in the interior, raised a word of objection to these discriminating rates. Nothing could be said against the through tariff, but the people of the interior had very good reason to complain that they had to make good any loss sustained by the company on through rates.

Mr. Dunsmuir, who had moved the adjournment of the debate of the address in reply on Thursday evening, asked the indulgence of the house to say a few words. He said he had shown when he last spoke that the elections had not been brought any too soon or more suddenly in 1886 than in 1882. He thought it was a very fortunate thing for the opposition that they had not been delayed longer or the honorable leader of the opposition would have lost his seat. At it was he had evidently received some government support, for he had taken none of his friends in with him. It was reported that the honorable gentlemen from New Westminster had stated to the effect that the leader of the opposition was paid to look after the interests of the country. He took exception to this statement. The opposition members were paid $10 per day, if the house sat 40 days, the same as the government members, for doing the business of the country and therefore they were under equal obligations to work in its interest. He did not know that himself and other gentlemen were worth $10 a day to the country. (Laughter.) It might have cost the honorable member from Cariboo $250 to land a ton of hay in Barkerville, but he did not pay that amount to the railroad company. Considering everything he thought the C. P. R. charges were moderate for their road was in such shape in the province that he would not take it and run it. If the company was prepared to carry freight to San Francisco it was of no consequence and did not affect us. If the honorable gentleman opposite were really sincere they should move for the appointment of a commission to enquire what the charges of the C. P. R. company really are. That was the way to go about it. In the matter of the extension of the C. P. R. line to Coal harbor he believed it was not in the interests of a few gentlemen but in the interests of the whole country. It was seen necessary for the province to do this otherwise the whole of the lands there would have reverted to the Dominion government. He was not taking the part of the C. P. R. company, but he believed their charges were not out of proportion. It had been said the company had declared a dividend of 10 per cent, last year but he would ask if that was from traffic. He was certain it was not.

Mr. Vernon characterized the amendment introduced by the hon. the leader of the opposition as one of a frivolous nature which could lead to no good result, and was, in his opinion, out of order, as being a reflexion on the action of a former house. He considered that the leader of the opposition showed a great wanting of tact by introducing at the opening of the session a vote of censure upon a government which had been sustained at the recent elections by three-fourths of the entire province. The remarks of the senior member for Yale, who stated it was not brought in a spirit of hostility to the present government, but merely an expression of opinion, showed the greatest ignorance of the most commonplace rules of parliamentary practice. It seemed strange that the opposition had to go back to issues two years old, upon which the people had rendered their verdict, to bring in now a vote of censure. He presumed that it was simply a mode of cementing the very tender ties that bound the members of the opposition to their leader. Practically it was a very stupid amendment. Statements had been made by several members respecting the excessive rates charged by the C. P. Railway, but a great number of members were altogether in the dark with regard to these charges. He did not believe in voting in the dark upon an important matter of this kind or voting upon hearsay evidence. Several members had instanced cases which seemed of exceptional hardship but they were unsupported by evidence. He asked the house for what purpose they had been elected? Was it to listen to the expressions of ill-feeling that had been exhibited by the several members from New Westminster district towards the provincial secretary, or was it for the purpose of furthering the interests of their constituents and the province at large? What could the members from several of the island districts, who had not had any business with the C. P. R. know about these so-called excessive rates? The members from the mainland had doubtless reason to complain but even many of them were not in a position to cast an intelligent vote upon the question. He asked the house to work together in harmony and endeavor to ascertain the cause of the dissatisfaction that seemed to exist, when if the result of their investigations showed that evils did exist, he was quite sure that on representation to the proper authorities the evils complained of would be remedied. He had already placed a notice on the board to the following effect: That a select committee be appointed by this house with power to call for persons and papers, and to examine witnesses and to report upon the cause of such dissatisfaction, with a view of the house taking such steps as may seem desirable [Hear, hear from all parts of the house]. The honorable gentleman trusted that the opposition knowing that this motion would come up in due course would withdraw the useless amendment now before the house. He hoped that when the motion he referred to came up a strong committee would be found and all possible information elicited upon the subject. As the C. P. R. company were all able business men he felt quite sure they would do all in their power to meet the views of this house as soon as their road was in working order, for it must be in the interests of the company to assist as far as they could the several industries referred to in his honor's speech. The amendment before the house was not calculated in the slightest degree to be of the slightest benefit to his constituents. It was unsupported by evidence and in view of the resolution of which he had given notice he would have to vote against it [Applause].

Mr. Allen would have been only too happy to support a measure of this kind if it had been brought up in a proper manner. He was as anxious for a change in the railway rates as anyone, but would oppose the present amendment and would not be afraid to meet his worst political enemy after doing so. [Applause.]

Mr. Grant combatted Mr. Dunsmuir's reference to Mr. Prior as the senior member for Victoria, and said if some of Mr. Beaven's supporters had not been prevented from voting and if ballot-papers with his name obliterated had not been given out that gentleman would have been at the head of the poll as usual. In regard to the passenger and freight rates charged in the upper country, he related an instance in which an individual from that part of the province had purchased a ticket for the east down here and on returning the C. P. R. officials refused to check his baggage. He then proceeded to quote authorities in support of his argument that the government were entirely responsible for the effect of legislation passing this house, and for all the errors and shortcomings in it. The stand taken by the government supporters on the amendment before the house was that they agreed with the principle but would not vote for it because it would injure the government.

Mr. Prior did not see what the house had to do with the question as to whether Mr. Beaven or himself had received the larger number of votes at the election. Both were returned bracketed together with the same number of votes, but as the hon. leader of the opposition was a gentleman of much larger experience in the house than he (Mr. Prior), was further advanced in years, and, as all would admit, better looking, he was perfectly willing to waive all claims he might have to the title of senior member [laughter]. He pointed out, however, that the rates charged on the railway were practically prohibitive and if a measure seeking to have them reduced should come in any other form than that of a vote of censure of the government, he would be glad to support it. [Applause.]

Mr. Martin in explanation of what Mr. Grant had said about a refusal of the C. P. R. officials to check baggage in the interior on through tickets stated that on the matter being referred to Mr. Abbott he replied that baggage would be checked from any station along the line. The freight rates however were practically prohibitive and he would willingly support any measure with a view to having them reduced.

Mr. Mason could not help thinking that the object of the resolution was to injure the government, and he believed as the honorable attorney general had said that if the government had been remiss in this matter the opposition had been equally so. If the question was properly brought up he would gladly support it, but in the present case he would support the government. He wished it remembered that he did not do this from any fear of the railway company for like the honorable member from Esquimalt he had returned his pass in order that he might be independent of them.

Hon. Mr. Robson said the speech from the throne being an emanation from the whole government it was very wrong for any particular clause in it to be attributed to any particular member of the government. It was manifestly in the interest of the province that the road should have gone down to Coal Harbor as quickly as possible and before a greater population and greater interests should be concentrated at Port Moody. The agreement to which exception was taken was ratified by the late house and again by the electors at the polls. He took it that Mr. Speaker would be in duty bound to rule the present amendment out of order should it have come before the same house as that by which the agreement was ratified, as in that case it would be reflection on the house itself. The object then of this resolution was to censure the late house on a matter which the electors had approved. Even if the amendment were carried, as the honorable member from Yale had pointed out, matters would be in the same position as before, as the simple act of the house in expressing regret that the ministers had failed to make certain stipulations could bring no good to the country or to anyone but the gentlemen opposite, seeing it would be a defeat of the government. He was convinced from what he had heard that there was a cause for complaint in respect to the rates to the interior, and he would give his assistance to all reasonable efforts to place them on a more equitable basis. He, however, would warn the house against being led away by an undue extent by a cry of this kind. He pointed out that if the province had not stipulated to give the railway 6,000 acres of land it would not only have lost the 6,000, but 20,000, which would have reverted to the Dominion government. When the resolution of the honorable member for Yale came up he would support it, as it was a statesmanlike way of dealing with the question. (Applause.)

Mr. Anderson was quite surprised at the amendment by the honorable leader of the opposition, and believed that it was his duty to have suggested any amendment to the agreement at the proper time, which he thought would have made it more beneficial to the people. The house, he believed, was unanimous in the opinion that the rates were excessive, but he was sure if the matter were properly represented to the company the desired change would be made without further trouble. (Applause.)

Mr. Orr said he had taken exception to the enormous grant of land to the railway company, and had pointed out that the line would ultimately go down without the granting of a single acre. He stated that the company had realized $450,000 from the portion of the townsite of Granville, which had been disposed of, and that they had still 5,000 acres to dispose of. He admitted that the resolution was practically a vote of censure, and having neglected to make arrangements with the railway company for reasonable charges, he believed the government deserved to be censured. Honorable gentlemen if they voted down this amendment would be giving the railway company exactly the handle that they wanted. In order to settle the dispute as to whether Mr. Prior or Mr. Beaven was the senior member for Victoria he would suggest that they be known as the twins.

No other members desiring to speak the question was put to a vote.

Ayes—Beaven, Bole, Orr, McLeese, Semlin, Grant, Stenhouse, Ladner—8.

Noes—Davie, Robson, Allen, Vernon, Turner, Prior, Baker, Cowan, John, Higgins, Martin, Croft, Thompson, Dunsmuir, Mason, Anderson, T. Davie—17.

Clause six of the address in reply read as follows: That it is a matter of satisfaction that the branch line to New Westminster has been so far completed as to be open for traffic; thereby placing that important city in connection with the railway system of the Dominion; and that the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway has been completed as far as the city of Nanaimo, and is in successful operation, and we have no doubt its influence upon the country traversed will be such as to fully justify the expectations and reward the enterprise of its promoters.

Mr. Stenhouse moved seconded by Mr. Grant, that the following words be added: "At the same time we deplore the irritation which has arisen among the settlers north of the Qualicum river, who have been denied the benefits while sharing in the evils of the legislation by virtue of which this section of the Island railway was constructed."

In making the motion Mr. Stenhouse claimed that by the provisions of the Settlement Act settlement was retarded.

Mr. Grant said he had contended in the passing of the Settlement Act a very great injustice was done to Comox and that part of the country, inasmuch as no provision was made to give it railway connection. Their land had been taken away so it was impossible for them to make a grant for this purpose in future. He claimed that the grant to the Island railway company was excessive, and that there were as good deposits of coal in the railway belt at Comox as there is at Nanaimo.

Mr. Dunsmuir said this amendment could do no good. It was well known that he was not backward in doing anything to advance the development of the country, and when the proper time came he would consider the matter of extending the line as well as building branches. He did not think the time of the house should be wasted in discussing this matter.

Mr. T. Davie did not think the honorable gentleman's remarks were treating the amendment in a respectful manner, and he had to take exception to them. He believed the settlement act was in the interest of the country and so far as the extent of the grant made under it was concerned it was not greater than what the previous government proposed making to an responsible company.

Mr. Orr said he had held that the settlement act was in the interest of the country and would vote against the amendment. He was sorry the matter had been brought up in this form.

Mr. Beaven had been grieved at the exhibition which the honorable senior member for Nanaimo had made of himself. The house had seen what it was predicted, it would see after the honorable gentleman had got all he wanted from the government, namely, the honorable gentleman defying the house and government. Proceeding, he said it had often been said both inside and outside of the house that the honorable senior member for Nanaimo was the government. He had not been fully convinced of it before. He was credibly informed that by a vote of this house in relation to curves on the Island railway one half a million dollars had been placed in this gentleman's pocket.

Mr. T. Davie—How about the general election?

Mr. Beaven said he would refer to that question. The hon. member from Cassiar had clearly shown that the ministers were responsible for all legislation, solely and only. The duties of the opposition were evidently misunderstood by the government and he would quote an authority on the subject. This set forth that the duties of the opposition were to oppose measures which, in their opinion would certainly be blameable if finding in proposed government measures cardinal mistakes against the interests of the country, they omitted to point them out when the measures were being discussed. Regarding Mr. Beaven's statement that ballot papers were prepared with his name crossed off, there was only one course for that gentleman to pursue if he believed any such mischief had been perpetrated, and that was to have a committee appointed, for assuredly such improper conduct could be discovered and if it existed would be severely punished. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Bole said the duties of the opposition were peculiar if the honorable provincial secretary and honorable attorney-general read constitutional law right. He took it that the duties of the opposition were to criticize every action of the government. They should express themselves strongly on every subject that came before them. If the mainland had had proper representation they would never have had a settlement bill. The mainland sustained the chief loss and the island got all the damages. Of the $750,000 received for compensation he thought that the mainland should have received $600,000. The greater portion of the coal lands of the province had been given away to Mr. Dunsmuir for the building of the Island railway. The government had stated to the world that the agricultural lands of the province were not great, and that minerals were to be the chief source of wealth and they had given the best portion of them away. However, public opinion at times had over-ridden acts of parliament, and though the honorable senior member for Nanaimo was backed up by an act of parliament, yet some of these days a Pharaoh would rise up who knew not Joseph and an act of parliament would restore the lands to the people by a much larger majority than had granted them. He was not well acquainted with the wants of the settlers near Comox, yet he thought if they were not being fairly treated the amendment of the honorable gentleman from Comox should pass and the settlers be placed in the full possession of their rights.

The amendment was put and lost and clause six passed.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Bole to a question of privilege, said that THE COLONIST had in this instance not misreported him but entirely misrepresented him. The honorable gentleman referred to an item under the heading of "Political Notes," which he characterized as a wilful misrepresentation.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The honorable provincial secretary laid on the table the annual report of the public schools of the province.

Mr. Higgins called attention to the unsanitary condition of the water-closets in the rear of the legislative hall.

House adjourned until 2 p.m. Tuesday.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Mr. Bole will ask the minister of finance what is the amount of the receipts from the New Westminster land office for the year ending 31st December, 1886, also the expenditure incurred in respect of said office during said period?

Mr. Bole will ask the premier, is it the intention of the government during this session to introduce legislation to increase taxation upon unoccupied and unimproved lands?

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Vernon will move the following resolutions:

That whereas, much dissatisfaction seems to exist at the transport rates charged by the C. P. R. Company in the province of British Columbia.

Be it resolved, that a select committee be appointed by the house, with power to call for persons and papers, and examine witnesses, to inquire into and report upon the cause of such dissatisfaction, with a view of the house taking such action in the premises as may seem to be desirable.

TUESDAY, Feb. 1st.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2.10.

Prayers were read by the Venerable Archdeacon Scriven.

The petition of the settlers of Sumas for the repeal of the Dyking Act was received.

On motion of Mr. Beaven the petition was ordered to be printed and circulated among the members of the house.

Mr. Orr asked that the amended proceedings of the house of Monday the 24th January be laid on the table.

THE ADDRESS IN REPLY.

Debate on the address in reply was resumed.

Mr. Cowan speaking of the reference to the mines in clause 7, said it was pleasing to see that the quantity of gold taken out of our placer mines had considerably increased in the past season. The amount of country prospected for alluvial mines, however, was small in comparison to that which remained to be prospected, and he thought the government should devise some means by which aid could be given towards development in this direction. Last summer a party went out in a northeasterly direction from Barkerville and after crossing a barren range some sixty miles in width they came to a slate formation and obtained a favorable prospect. A trail brushed out a distance of about eighty miles to the Fraser would open up a large amount of country for prospecting purposes, the Fraser at that point being navigable for a distance of some hundreds of miles or more. From the reports of old and reliable miners, it was possible that a very extensive gold field might be opened up in the direction to which he had referred, and he hoped that the government would place a small sum on the estimates to encourage the development.

Hon. Mr. Robson said the hon. gentleman was aware if he could submit any feasible scheme for prospecting any part of the country it would receive the attention of the government.

Mr. McLeese had much pleasure in agreeing with his hon. colleague. He desired to impress the government with the necessity of assisting quartz mining development even if money had to be borrowed for the purpose.

Mr. Allen was in sympathy with all that had been said by the previous speakers. Since the completion of the railway the prosperity of the interior depended almost entirely on the development of the quartz mines and he hoped all assistance possible would be given to that industry. He knew of parties who had been out prospecting during the past year who really had not the means to carry on the work and had to depend on their neighbors.

Mr. Grant was happy to know that the output of gold in his own district and the province generally showed a considerable increase over former years. In the past British Columbia has added $50,000,000 to the wealth of the world. Any measure which the government would bring down looking to the development of the mines, he was sure would meet with the approval of the house.

Mr. Baker said he had found that all the old miners were opposed to any assistance being given by the government for prospecting, inasmuch as the best class of miners would not get the benefit of it. He believed, however, if the government found themselves in a position to erect stamping mills it would result in great good to the country in general. He would suggest that a select committee be appointed to take these matters into consideration.

Hon. Mr. Robson said the mining report of this year would be found an unusually interesting one. The government were delayed in bringing it down the returns not being in from the coal mines.

Mr. Bole, speaking to clause ten of the address in reply, said he was in sympathy with it—so much so that he would like to know more about it. It had been claimed that the provincial government had given 6,000 acres of land to the railway company in order to save 15,000, but to show that this was not accurate it was only necessary for him to call attention to a notice of the chief commissioner of lands and works which appeared on the 10th of May, 1884, setting forth that the Dominion government had relinquished all claim to certain lands on the shores of Burrard Inlet. These lands were then practically in the hands of the province, to deal with as it saw fit. The bonds received from the railway company for the extension of the line, he contended, were deceptive, and, therefore, all the province had for the 6,000 acres it had given away was a defective document. The province was now in a very unsatisfactory position, as all it could do was to bring the Canadian Pacific company into court. If the province had had the money deposited it would be in a very different position, the onus of showing why it should not be retained being thrown on the company. Unless the house took steps to cancel the crown grants of Stephen and Angus the $250,000 indemnity could never be realized. He expected to find the government supporters as usual admitting the force of their argument, but at the same time refusing to vote against the government. Before concluding he moved the following amendment to the 10th paragraph of the reply to his honor's speech: "But we regret that your honor's ministers did not obtain such security as would render this course unnecessary, more especially as they conveyed so large an area of valuable land to the company before the company's contract was fulfilled."

Mr. McLeese said the bond in question was one of the most monstrous and useless documents he had ever known. The railway company had failed to fulfil their agreement, but owing to the bungling of the government and a defective bond the province is unable to recover any indemnity. He hoped that honorable gentlemen opposite would give this matter the consideration that it was justly entitled to, and that they would support this resolution and go in for compelling the railway company to pay over their indemnity. He asked what would posterity think of a government which had given away all the foreshore rights, so that people were unable to build a wharf for themselves.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he proposed to deal very briefly with the matter under discussion. What this government contended was that by declaring Coal harbor or English bay the terminus of the Canadian Pacific railway the Dominion government would be entitled to all the lands laying along the route of the extension. The course adopted by the government, as had been shown, saved a large amount of these lands for the province. It had been stated that the government had made grants of a valuable tract of land, while the fact was that all the value which these lands possessed was owing to railway construction, and consequently to the action of the government. It had been stated that the bonds were defective, but he had listened in vain to hear in what particular.

Mr. Beaven said this was another sample of the losses and difficulties caused through the incapacity of the present government. He confessed that he was not a little surprised at the remarks of the honorable attorney general who confined himself not to contradicting the points taken by his honorable friend but to the position taken by the opposition at the time the grant of 6000 acres was made. He was at a loss to know where the disputes and difficulties, in which the province had become involved by the present government, were going to end. He held that the grant of land was to Donald Stephen, W. C. Van Horne and Sanford Flemming while the bond was given by Donald Smith and R. B. Angus. There were several nice points about this bond for $250,000. For several reasons there was cause to believe that the company were not making such efforts to complete the extension as might be expected. It was claimed that their objective point was in reality San Francisco and not Burrard Inlet. Already he understood that steps were taken to build a branch from Hope to the American boundary which would be carried to Seattle there to connect with a system now almost completed giving them access to San Francisco. It was therefore of the highest importance that the company should have given a substantial bond for the completion of the extension before receiving the 6000 acres of land. He claimed that all that could be said about the bargain was that it was made as it was, because the interests of the provincial secretary came into consideration.

Hon. Mr. Robson was sure the house must be tired of the discussion of these dead issues. He thought it was a most remarkable, most unpatriotic thing for the honorable gentlemen on the other side of the house to proclaim to the world that this bond was worthless when they were really in a position to know very little about it. He wished to assure the house this bond was good and that it was the intention of the government that the bond should be estreated and the full amount which it represented should be recovered. It was mere nonsense to say that either Mr. Smith or Van Horn, or Sanford Flemming were not good for the $250,000. The honorable gentlemen opposite were continually contradicting themselves in this matter. The seconder of the resolution, for instance, declared at the outset that the bond was not worth the paper that it was written on, while before he sat down he expressed the hope that the honorable gentlemen would use every means in their power to have the bond enforced. Such talk was childish. (Laughter.) The honorable mover of the resolution said nine-tenths of the people of the province declared that this was one of the most improvident bargains ever consummated. The voice of the ballot box was the best reply to that statement.

Mr. Bole explained that he had not said the bond was worthless, but what he would say was that only a nominal sum of the $250,000 could be collected. It was of this fact he complained. The province should have had $250,000 with which to replenish the exchequer.

Mr. Grant believed the bond was worthless for the reason that when the matter came up in court the company would claim that they had made all possible endeavors to carry the line down. The $250,000 should have been deposited, which would have placed the province in the position of defendant, in court, in this matter.

Mr. Higgins rallied the last speaker on having said that the railway company had done all in their power to fulfil their obligation to the province, when the fact was the company had tried to take the settlers' land without proper compensation and had lost their opportunity to build the road in consequence.

Mr. Grant explained that he had said such was his opinion; he did not state it as a fact.

Mr. Higgins retorted that the explanation did not relieve the hon. gentleman from the force of the statement. He then went on to charge that the opposition had been most unpatriotic in their efforts to weaken the hold the province had on the company for not having built the Vancouver extension. The company's conduct had been scandalous in the extreme. Had they acted with the least liberality they would have built the road long ago, but no court would excuse them for their misconduct towards the Port Moody people or relieve them from the obligation under the bond of the company, neither would it resist the collection of this $250,000, which was most justly due the province. He hoped the act which conveyed to them 6,000 acres of land would be repealed and the company stripped of every acre. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Semlin claimed also that the C. P. R. should have deposited the $250,000, which would have compelled the company to deal fairly with the property owners.

Mr. Turner said it might be the duty of the opposition to oppose, but when they did oppose he believed that it should be with an object leading up to some good to the country. (Hear, hear.) He did not believe in a factious opposition, bringing no good to anyone and wasting the time of the house. If business went on at this rate the pay of the members of the house would be reduced to Chinaman's wages as they would not get through in forty days or anything like it [laughter]. He hoped the house would give up the discussion of these dead issues and go on with legislation which would be a benefit to the country [applause].

The amendment was then put and defeated by a vote of 16 to 7, and the original clause passed.

Mr. Orr moved an amendment to clause 14, which read as follows: "That we are glad to see among the legislative measures requiring our consideration will be a bill for the better protection of the timber lands of the province, and a bill repealing so much of the 'Sumas Dyking Act, 1878,' as relates to Sumas and Chilliwhack, so that the lands covered by it may be administered in the interest of settlement." The amendment was as follows:

We notice that your honor considers that amongst the public measures requiring our consideration is a bill for the better protection of the timber lands of the province, but we consider such a measure would have been of greater utility had it been passed before so much of the timber which it was intended to protect had been cut."

The amendment was received with laughter. A voice, "the worst yet."

The mover said he had frequently called the attention of the government to the fact that a great deal of the most valuable timber lands in the province was being grabbed up by speculators from the east and the United States. He was credibly informed these lands disposed of at $2.50 per acre would have brought from fifty to sixty dollars per acre if they had been set up at auction. He believed the government had been remiss in their duty and accordingly moved this resolution.

Mr. Ladner in seconding it cited instances where timber lands had been taken up by thousands of acres for speculative purposes. This he said should not exist in a country inviting settlers to come in and take up the land. He congratulated the government on its expressed intention of dealing with the Sumas Dyking Act.

Mr. T. Davie said he thought if there was any blame attached to this matter the previous government should share some of it, and he would move the following be placed after the word "utility": "Whilst the former Beaven government were in power such government allowed the lands to be bought up and monopolized by speculators at $1 per acre until the present administration advanced them to $2.50." (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Robson said that as the honorable gentleman had had his joke and made a very good point, he hoped he would withdraw the amendment, as if it passed, would leave the government in practically the same position as the other would.

Hon. Mr. Beaven, proceeded at considerable length to defend his land and timber policy. Before he concluded he accused the Hon. Mr. Robson of only being elected through the unfortunate circumstance of too many opposition candidates running in New Westminster district.

Hon. Mr. Robson (as if he had an idea that the honorable gentleman was stretching the truth to a rather severe tension.) What?

Mr. Beaven—Yes, but for that unfortunate circumstance these halls which know the honorable provincial secretary would have known him no more. He would have gone with the honorable finance minister. Proceeding he reiterated the statament that the government represent a minority of the voters of the province. (Laughter from all parts of the house.) It can be demonstrated, he continued, by a simple arithmatical calculation.

Government members—Demonstrate it then; go on, demonstrate it.

Mr. Beaven—Well-er-I was going to say, I do say that the government represents a minority of the voters of the province. (No! No!). The honorable gentleman sat down without doing anything further to demonstrate his remarkable problem.

Mr. McLeese—I can assure honorable gentlemen that the majority of votes in my district were polled for the opposition.

Mr. Allen—In the district I have the honor to represent the government candidates polled two to one.

Hon. Mr. Robson said in his district he had polled a majority of votes over all candidates. He did not get in by the "scratch of his eyebrows," as Mr. Beaven had remarked.

Mr. T. Davie said, with the consent of the house, he would withdraw his amendment. It had had the effect of giving the members a chance of glorifying themselves a little.

Mr. Beaven objected to the withdrawal of the amendment.

Considerable cross-fire occurred on the question as to whether the resolution could be withdrawn by a majority or whether a unanimity of consent was required.

The Speaker ruled that only a majority was necessary. The English rule and that of this house entirely differed. The late speaker, Mr. Mara, had similarly decided.

Hon. Mr. Davie said if the chief commissioner was here he would deal with the question thoroughly, as he had an intimate knowledge of timber lands and their requirements. It was a remarkable fact that the opposition could only be wise after the mistake had occurred, or to use an old adage "locking the stable door after the steed was stolen." This was the effect of all the amendments they had offered. What was the palpable difference between section 62 of the old act and the one now in force? He took it that they meant substantially the same. In 1875 there was not the same prosperity in the province, and there were not the reasons then that there are now for acquiring lands for timber only. There was a defect in the timber act of 1875 as there was now in the present act. He thought it was to the credit of the government that when they discovered the price of land was too low that they had raised it all round, and now that it was proposed to amend the act in reference to timber lands he thought the opposition should either assent that it was necessary and endeavor to help them in framing it, or instead of saying "it ought to have been done before," await until it was brought before the house and then criticise it. He did not think that one tithe of the timber lands had been taken up; they were virtually untouched. The suggestion made by one honorable gentleman that a mill of a certain capacity should be required before granting lands was, he thought, a good one.

Mr. Speaker put the question as to whether the words proposed to be struck out form part of the question, which was carried by 16 to 7.

On clause 17, Mr. Beaven hoped that an assurance would be given by the government that they would bring down at the earliest possible moment the public accounts to the 31st of December. He thought that the showing up to 30th June was such as demanded that this should be done. The revenue of the province had been greatly overestimated and the position of the finances was not satisfactory. In referring to the items of revenue, Mr. Beaven remarked that liquor licenses had increased the revenue by $10,000. He thought this was surely objectionable to the hon. provincial secretary.

Hon. Mr. Robson—That is the only good feature about the liquor traffic—it adds materially to the revenue. He hoped that the abstract of expenditure would be down on Friday next, and details would be brought down just as soon as they could be prepared by the officers.

The hon. attorney-general moved that a resolution thanking his honor for his gracious speech, be referred to a special committee.

Read and agreed to.

It was resolved that the address in reply to the speech be presented to his honor by the executive council.

House adjourned until 2 p. m. to-day.

NOTICE OF QUESTION.

Mr. Bole will ask the premier: Is it the intention of the government during the present session to introduce any measure to amend the Homestead Ordinance, 1867, and Homestead Ordinance Amendment Act, 1873?

Mr. Orr will ask the provincial secretary: What action has the government taken relative to a resolution passed by this house on the 26th February, 1886, respecting the railway bridge across False Creek, in the district of New Westminster?

Mr. Higgins will ask the chief commissioner of lands and works: Is he aware that there is stored in a frame building within a few hundred feet of the government buildings a large quantity of powder, and that the existence of said explosive in its present exposed condition is a menace to government as well as to private property?

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. Davie will ask leave to introduce an act entitled "An Act respecting the estates, and to control the civil rights of imbeciles and habitual drunkards."

Mr. Bole will move for copies of all letters, dispatches, minutes or orders-in-council, and all other correspondence, which passed between the Dominion government and his honor's ministers, relating to the cancellation of the reserve of lands west of North Road and North Arm Burrard Inlet, referred to in a public notice dated 10th May, 1884, and signed by the honorable the chief commissioner of lands and works.

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