

AMENDING THE LAWS.

Wisdom is multiplying upon the earth. Our legislators are gathering it up in great heaps and incorporating it in statutes designed to secure to man his rights and add to his happiness. As conditions are ever varying, however, it is commonly found that the act which seemed to be all right at the time it emerged from the state of being a bill requires amendment every session. This gives the legislature an excuse for its existence, the orators an opportunity to talk and the practical man a chance to demonstrate that the state of perfection in legislation is still a long distance ahead. This movement in the direction of perfection would be all right but for one startling thought. The law is already admitted to be a most complex machine, and there is a fear that the time may come when its highly organized system will be unable to bear the strain which has been put upon it and break down entirely. What would the world do then?

We observe that the senior member for Victoria has laid bare one of the secrets of his great popularity by introducing the following amendments to the law relating to inheritance and distribution:

5. If the intestate shall leave a widow or husband, him or her surviving, such widow or husband, as the case may be, shall be entitled, in case the intestate has or has not left lawful descendants, to one-half of such real estate absolutely, but such widow shall not be entitled to dower in the remaining half.

The complaints about defects developing through the working of the Placer Mining Act have been loud and deep, and the Minister of Mines, by and with the assistance of the practical miners in the House, is endeavoring to make the crooked straight by numerous amendments, and if any miner has a protest to make he had better make it without loss of time. The designations of bench, hill and gulch diggings are wiped out, and "streams and ravines" are made to include natural water courses, whether containing water or not. The privilege of one month in which to obtain a free mine's license by any one who has struck a claim, without renewing his license, is abolished. The most radical change is in regard to the size of claims. These are increased from 100 feet to 250 feet for bar diggings. In the case of discovery claims the discoverer is allowed 600 feet instead of 300 as before, and two discovery covers 1,000 feet instead of 600 as before. Over that number claims of the ordinary size are allowed, no provision being made for parties up to the number of four, as before. Another amendment provides that the name of locator, number of certificate, etc., is to be posted on each of the four posts of the claim, so that in case of some of the posts falling one alone would be sufficient to re-trace the boundaries of the claim. Provision is made for the erection of additional posts beside the discoverer's, this being necessitated by the larger area of the claim. Judgments affecting claims are to be recorded with the mining recorder and notices of insufficiency of water necessitating the laying-over of claims are to be posted on the claim itself, as well as with the mining recorder as heretofore. The amendments are too extensive to give in full, but here are a few of them:

No person or joint stock company shall be recognized as having any right or interest in or to any placer claim, and no claim, bed-rock flume grant, or any minerals in any ground comprised therein, or in or to any water right, mining ditch, drain, tunnel, or flume, unless he or it shall have a free mine's certificate accepted. And on the expiration of a free mine's certificate the owner thereof shall absolutely forfeit all his rights and interest in or to any placer claim, mining lease, bed-rock flume grant, and any minerals in any ground comprised therein, and in or to any and every water right, mining ditch, drain, tunnel, or flume, which may be held or claimed by such owner of such expired free mine's certificate, unless such owner shall, on or before the day following the expiration of such certificate, obtain a new free mine's certificate. Provided, nevertheless, any co-owner fail to keep up his free mine's certificate, such failure shall not cause a forfeiture or act as an abandonment of the claim; but the interest of the co-owner who shall fail to keep up his free mine's certificate shall, as a fact, be and become, vested in his co-owners, pro rata, according to their former interests. The filing in the office of the Mining Recorder of a certificate from the Department of Mines that the free mine's certificate of such co-owner has indeed shall be sufficient evidence of such lapse to vest the title in the continuing co-owners on the record in the office of such Mining Recorder. Provided, nevertheless, that a shareholder in a joint stock company need not be a free miner, and, though not a free miner, shall be entitled to buy, sell, hold, or dispose of any shares therein. And provided, also, that such shares shall not apply to placer mines for which a Crown grant has been issued.

Every person who works any placer claim within the province of British Columbia, whether recorded or not, for his own use and benefit without being the holder of an unexpired free mine's certificate shall, on conviction thereof in a summary way, forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding twenty-five dollars, besides costs.

Section 11 of the said Act is hereby amended by adding thereto the following proviso: "Provided that a free miner acting as agent for another free miner shall not be entitled to locate or record any placer claim as such agent unless and until there has been recorded in the office of the Mining Recorder for the mining division in which such claim is situate a power of attorney appointing such agent to locate and record such claim for his principal."

Section 16 of the said Act is hereby amended, and the following substituted therefor: "16. The size of placer claims shall be as follows: "In 'creek diggings' a claim shall be 250

feet long, measured in the general direction of the course of the stream, and shall extend from high water mark on one bank to high water mark on the other, but when such high water marks are less than 250 feet apart the claim shall be 250 feet square:

"In 'bar diggings' a claim shall be: "(a) A piece of land not exceeding 250 feet square on any bar which is covered at high water, or

"(b) A strip of land 250 feet long at high water mark and in width extending from high water mark to extreme low water mark: "In 'dry diggings' a claim shall be 250 feet square."

Section 17 of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor: "17. If any free miner, or party of free miners, discover a new locality for the prosecution of placer mining and such discovery be established to the satisfaction of the Gold Commissioner, place claims of the following areas shall be allowed to such discoverers, viz.:

"To one discoverer, one claim 600 feet in length.

"To a party of two discoverers, two claims, amounting together to 1,000 feet in length.

"And to each member of a party beyond two in number, a claim of the ordinary size only.

"Provided that where a discovery claim has been established in any locality no further discovery shall be allowed within five miles therefrom, measured along the water-courses. The width of such claims shall be the same as ordinary placer claims of the same class."

OPEN DOOR FOR RAILWAYS.

The voice of the interior of British Columbia has been heard and it demands with a sternness of tone that we think our legislators will not venture to ignore that all companies that desire to be so shall be permitted to build lines of railway in the province. The Associated Boards of Trade of the interior have endorsed the position of "splendid isolation" which the Times has maintained despite the opposition or indifference of nearly all the newspapers of the coast and many in the portions of the province chiefly interested. We regret to say it, but, whatever the cause, in this case the press has not voiced public opinion. There is not a city in the province, or any section of it, that would not mortgage its future in order to gain for itself better railway connection, and yet in the case which has occupied so much attention of late it has been assumed by those who must have a very low opinion of the astuteness of the public that an effective barricade could be raised against a project which when carried out will develop a fine section of country, build two or three cities in the course of a very short time and create a splendid addition to the markets of our farmers and merchants and manufacturers, besides adding enormously to the revenues of the province—revenues which will be of such material assistance in developing other sections and keeping in progress the growing time which has just begun to gather force.

It may not be inopportune to remind our coast Boards of Trade and merchants that they have once more the impression gain ground that they are in antagonism to and not in sympathy with the aspirations of the merchants of the interior. That this is unfortunate it is not necessary for us to point out. The extent of the market which is being developed in the mining regions now that smelters are springing up in all directions, and the number of shipping mines is being added to every week, we shall understand by and by, perhaps when the Eastern merchants have secured a grip on the trade that will be difficult to unfasten. Would it not be well for the Western Boards of Trade to endorse the following resolutions passed by the Associated Boards of Eastern British Columbia at a meeting held in the town of Greenwood last week:

"Whereas, several applications have been made to the Dominion Parliament and provincial legislature for acts incorporating railway companies to build lines of railway into the province of British Columbia from the United States:

"And whereas interested parties are strenuously endeavoring to create the impression that such railways, if constructed, would be inimical to the mining and smelting interests of the province:

"And whereas in furtherance of their designs the opponents of the competitive railways have proclaimed that those interested in mining and smelting in British Columbia are opposed to the granting of said railway charters:

cheap freight rates are essential to building up the mining and smelting industries, and in the absence of government owned railways, these can be secured only by competition and the control of rates through a railway commission or other effective instrument:

"And be it further resolved that this association petition the Dominion Parliament and provincial legislature to repeal the charter applied for by the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Co., and those applied for by other companies, who ask for nothing beyond the privilege of constructing railways into the province.

"And be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be printed and forwarded to the members of the Dominion and provincial governments, and the members of the House of Commons, Senate and provincial legislature."

The mover of these resolutions made a strong speech urging that neither the interests of the C. P. R. nor the coal company should be considered, but that the welfare of the province should be the dominant thought. Only five votes were cast against the resolutions, three of them being recorded by representatives from Trail, where the C. P. R. smelter is situated. Thirty-three members of the Associated Boards supported the resolution.

DR. CLARKE'S REPORT.

Judging by the report which the government has received from a man who is unquestionably competent to give an opinion, some radical changes are necessary in the management of the asylum for the insane at Westminister; in fact, perhaps it would not be too strong to say that it is time the whole system were torn up by the roots and a new and different regime inaugurated. Apparently the right thing has not been done neither by the patients nor the public. The inmates of the asylum have not received the attention usually extended to the unfortunate in these days of supreme regard for all who are afflicted, and the substance of the province, if it has not been wantonly wasted, has not been conserved as it should have been. Probably there is no particular blame to be attached to any of the employees of the asylum. They simply have not approached their duties in the proper spirit, being apparently under the impression, as the report says in effect, that the institution was created for their convenience rather than the comfort and well-being of the patients. It may be that the blame for this condition of affairs for the most part rests upon the shoulders of the provincial authorities. With proper inspection and supervision such conditions should never have obtained. But whatever the cause, the report deals quite squarely with conditions as they exist, and it now only remains for the government to take the matter up and apply the remedy.

Now that the question of economy in the management of public institutions has been brought up through the report on the state of affairs at the asylum, perhaps we may be pardoned for suggesting that the profrugality which Dr. Clarke noted in the ordering of supplies seems to be inherent in our Western system of doing business. None of our public institutions is conducted on the economical lines insisted upon by Eastern public men. It was noted only a short time ago in some of the Eastern papers that the cost of feeding the prisoners in the jail of one of the largest cities in Ontario was about three or four cents a day. We do not look forward to breaking that record in British Columbia, but it does appear that in many of our municipal and provincial institutions there is room for the practice of a great deal of economy without approaching a state of rigidity or lessening in the slightest degree the comforts of the inmates. It is time all wanton waste was abolished.

BRITAIN AND HER NEIGHBORS.

One of the notable features of the debates in the parliaments of the great self-governing nations of the world is the frequency with which the leaders of the party in power have to defend themselves against allegations of undue friendliness with Great Britain. It is extraordinary that in the case of nations having so much in common as the empires of Great Britain and Germany it should be suspected that Emperor William was actuated by other motives than the mere paying of respect to the memory of his grandmother in his prolonged visit to the King his uncle. That the feelings of the people of our Mother Country towards those of the Fatherland have become more cordial because of the thoughtfulness and consideration of the Emperor for his relatives in their affliction there is no manner of doubt. Yet there are elements in Germany, apparently, which resent this, preferring bitterness and hostility. The antagonism of France and the United States we can understand, although many years of friendly business and social intercourse should ere this have melted the memories of former strife; but in the case of Germany it is not so easy to comprehend. The war in South Africa has displeased Germans in all parts of the world, but there were elements of hostility to Britons present among them before the war broke out. So that we are safe in assuming that commercial and industrial rivalry is at the bottom of the antagonism in all cases. Why this should be so it is hard to understand when all the circumstances are considered.

Great Britain has admitted the products of all these countries into her markets absolutely free, although they have heaped up duties against her almost without limit. The temptation to retaliate must have been very great in

many cases, and yet it has always been resisted, not because of regard for the feelings of her rivals, but because she regarded it as in the interests of her people to adhere steadily to the course she had mapped out. Britain's course has received ample vindication in the prosperity which has uniformly attended within her dominions even when there was depression and stagnation among her neighbors. Perhaps this unchanging good fortune has aroused the passions which we have noted. If Great Britain had been the most highly protected nation in the world instead of what she is it is difficult to believe that her neighbors could have been more hostile. Will it breed joy or displeasure if an authentic announcement be made that it is the intention of Great Britain to raise part of her revenues in the future by duties on imports? We admit that that is a very difficult question to answer in view of the attitude which her rival nations have maintained in the past. They may accept it as an evidence of decadence and rejoice, or they may take it to be an act of hostility, and ask for means of retaliation. But as they have been for years striking at Britain in what they deemed to be her vulnerable parts their further efforts are likely to be awaited with equanimity.

OUR MINERAL OUTPUT.

All things considered, the report of the Minister of Mines showing the growth of the mining industry in British Columbia is highly satisfactory. Great as the increase in the output has been for 1900, compared with the previous year, it is confidently expected, if nothing occurs to impede progress, that the increase will be still more marked with each succeeding year. British Columbians know that the era of expansion has just commenced here. Smelters have just been completed and others are being projected which will add greatly to the production in localities which have hitherto been hampered for lack of such facilities or have had no facilities at all. An adjustment of all disputes between capital and labor has been made, which promises to be lasting, and the one thing needed to secure the maximum benefit to the country from the wealth which it contains is such action on the part of the federal and the provincial governments as will secure the development of our resources to the highest point within the boundaries of the province.

This afternoon W. W. E. McInnes will present a petition to amend the Coal Mines' Regulation Act, asking for the establishment of a board to examine and declare as to the competency of miners working underground in coal mines. The board would consist of two members elected by the miners, and one appointed by the government. The petition is signed by 517 miners in the collieries at Cumberland, Nanaimo, Extension and South Wellington.

A deputation from Extension waited on Premier Dunsmuir this afternoon asking him not to remove the pay office of the collieries to Ladysmith. The Premier informed them, in reply, that he intended doing so, and that he had given them distinctly to understand that it was his intention to build up Ladysmith. Any who so wished might continue to live at Extension, and would be provided with passes to go down to Ladysmith to draw their pay, or they might authorize some one there to do so for them.

A WIDESPREAD TROUBLE IN SPRING TIME.

Paine's Celery Compound The Only Remedy That Cures and Saves Life.

One of the most prevalent and fatal troubles at this season is Kidney disease. It comes on as silently as a cat steals upon its prey, and too often wrecks life before the victims are fully aware of their danger.

Lord Wolsey waited until he was no longer commander-in-chief before he undertook to criticize the methods of the war department. If he had demanded that he and not civilian under-stoppers should be given the direction of affairs and resigned on the disregarding of his protest he would have had a stronger case to lay before his lords and gentlemen. His lack of sense has cost Great Britain many valuable lives and much treasure. Will the little man at present in charge clean out the incompetents?

MEETING OF MINERS.

They Decide to Make Another Appeal to Premier Dunsmuir for a Conference.

(Special to the Times.) South Wellington, March 6.—A mass meeting of the Alexandra Miners' Union was held here this morning, when John MacKinnon acted as chairman. All the speakers agreed the union had exhausted all peaceable methods of attempting to lay their grievances before the company, and that they have been unjustly and discourteously treated. The men resolved that they would no longer recognize Alexander Frauds as foreman or manager of the mines, but would treat only with Premier Dunsmuir or other responsible representatives of the company.

Several bitter attacks were made on the Nanaimo Miners' Union for alleged failure to carry out the promise to demand ten per cent. advance on the 1st of March.

ABOUT THE HOUSE.

Joseph Martin, M. P. P., Arrived in the City To-day—Miners' Petition.

Jos. Martin, M. P. P., arrived in the city to-day, and will be on hand for the sittings of the legislature to-day, or, as he says, "to open fire" on the government. The almost simultaneous arrival of himself and Smith Curtis fills the opposition ranks up to full fighting strength.

A deputation consisting of T. J. Trapp, president of the Westminister Exhibition Association, as it is known; Ald. W. H. Keary, secretary and manager; W. J. Mathers, Arthur Maline, W. R. Gilley, Dr. R. Eden Walker, all of New Westminister; Capt. W. F. Stewart, of Ebhurie; H. D. Benson, Ladner; and John Hendry and R. Hamilton, of Vancouver, waited on the executive this morning to urge the granting of \$5,000 to the New Westminister fair. They were accompanied by Messrs. Garden, Tatlow, Helmecken, Taylor, Oliver, Munro, Kidd, Gilmour, J. C. Brown, Speaker Booth, Dickie, Hunter and A. W. Smith, and the executive were addressed by Messrs. Trapp, Keary, Oliver, Kidd, Tatlow, Munro, Green and Smith. The latter urged that the provincial fair be held alternately at New Westminister and Victoria. The others supported the deputation absolutely. The government promised all possible consideration to the proposal. The deputation was introduced by J. C. Brown.

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It Will Pay You

To watch our ads. We advertise something interesting every week, and our space will not permit us to quote all the articles we carry but we will be pleased to have you call and get our prices before purchasing elsewhere.

Agents Wanted To sell high grade fruit trees and fruit bushes, ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, roses, hedges, vines, etc., all of which is sent out under government certificate for cleanliness and freshness from disease, for THE FONTHILL NURSERIES

A beautiful, new Pansy The Steele-Briggs 'Madame Perret' Pansy has very large pink-to-purple flowers. Sometimes they are to 3 1/2 inches across. It has straighter, stiffer stems than the ordinary pansy, and the flowers are held out from the foliage better. We will send our Catalogue and a Madame Perret Pansy seed packet by mail to you for 25c. Send to-day. The Catalogue is the largest Canadian seed catalogue ever published. THE STEELE-BRIGGS SEED CO., Ltd., TORONTO, Canada's Greatest Seed House.

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Treatment Of Ins

Dr. Clarke Outlines the He Discovered in Pr... cial Institution

Advocates More Em... Physical Culture, Dr... a Farm Colony

The provincial secretary submitted the report of Dr. C. investigating the working of at New Westminister. Amongst conclusions to an un... state of affairs he mentions:

- 1. Excessive salaries to staff and nurses.
2. Too numerous a staff.
3. Unnecessary officials, such as foreman and shoemaker.
4. Lack of economy in supplies.
5. Lack of organization in system.
6. Lack of system in the department.
7. Defective heating arrangements in their management, and consequent fuel bills.
8. Inadequate and unwholesome roundings and facilities for the patients.
9. Allowing refractory patients to occupy one bedroom.
10. Poor bedding and lack of attention to patients.

Dr. Clarke makes the following suggestions: 1. Proper and elaborate scheme of heating and ventilation in the institution. 2. If desirable the purchasing of land for a farm colony. 3. Drill and physical culture. Concluding, Dr. Clarke says mental principle upon which should have been that there are no ideas of the proper relation should exist between patient and employee.

The report, in full, is as follows: Sir: In accordance with the provisions contained in the commission on the 10th of January went to New Westminister, having complied with the provisions of the Public Inquiries Act, to investigate the affairs of the hospital for the insane on the 15th of January 1901. Dr. Clarke, the medical superintendent, received me in a friendly manner, and many visits to the institution were made. I was very frank and open in my answers to the questions put to me, and I was very frank and open in my answers to the questions put to me, and I was very frank and open in my answers to the questions put to me.

Desires of Remedying and I sincerely trust that the which are inevitable may be in a wrong spirit. They are a reflection, merely suggested to pave the way to the removal of what should be the insane in the true sense of the word.

One of the most serious defects of the economic system which has now risen to no less than a national crisis, is the underrated. It is easily seen that the conditions and unfortunate have led to the increase of the number of patients, it is not a matter of a few months.

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