

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U.S. Gov't Report



TWO DAYS' CARNIVAL.

Monday and Tuesday, May 25 and 26 the Dates of the Celebration.

Victorians Will Once More Right Heartily Honor the Queen's Birthday.

As in years gone by, Victorians will again right heartily celebrate this spring the natal day of Britain's Queen, last evening's public meeting of the loyal citizens having unanimously decided that the carnival should be held and that Monday and Tuesday, May 25 and 26, should be the days of the public celebration. On the Saturday before the 24th, private enterprise will provide other and strong attractions in the line of sports—bicycle races at the Oak Bay track, and the professional baseball match between Victoria and Portland at Caledonia park—so that the festival will in reality occupy the greater portion of the week. As in the past the regatta on Victoria Arm will be made the great feature of the civic celebration, to be known this year as a grand aquatic carnival, and there is every reason to believe that the attendance of visitors will be greater than in any previous year.

Having decided this much as to the main details the citizens who met at the city hall last evening to the number of about one hundred, decided to follow well established precedents and placed the work of preparation for the carnival in the hands of an influential general committee who will commence operations immediately, having two full months to work in.

His Worship the Mayor, at whose call the citizens gathered last evening, announced at the meeting to the chair the reasons that had prompted him to call the citizens together. He was of the firm opinion that Victorians as a whole were heartily in favor of loyally observing the birthday of Her Gracious Majesty as in the past, and this being the case it was well to commence early and complete the work of preparation in plenty of time.

The first detail to be considered—the meeting being a unit in regard to the desirability of holding a Queen's Birthday carnival—was that of dates, the holiday falling this year on a Sunday. This was quickly disposed of, Tuesday, the 29th and the 30th, being named as the celebration days, on the motion of Mr. M. Young and Ald. R. T. Williams.

It was also decided, without objection being raised, that the regatta be held at the Gorge and be made the great feature of the civic festival. On the suggestion of Ald. Williams, the regatta will this year be known as the Aquatic Carnival, the new appellation being suggested by the meeting as more attractive and "drawing," despite Mr. Oerffhaus' contention that if the old name was to be abandoned a pleasing combination of the Italian and the Greek might be introduced that would be both unique and instructive to the rising generation.

Mr. St. Clair addressed the meeting at some length, advising a postponement of the expenditure in advertising the carnival and a liberal use of the moneys collected in the sports for juveniles. The majority present did not, however, endorse the wisdom of his position, stating the opinion that as one of the main reasons for holding a Queen's Birthday festival is to attract visitors hither, and not provide sports and games in which the youngsters may entertain the citizens, curtailing the expenditure in advertising would be very poor policy from every practical standpoint.

On the subject of financing the celebration, His Worship announced that the council had decided to grant \$1,000 to start the fund—a statement which was received with hearty and unanimous approbation.

The general committee was, on the motion of Mr. Macpherson and Mr. W. R. Higgins, accepted as based on last year's list, which will be revised at once by the general secretary, and will then proceed to appoint the various sub-committees, meeting for this purpose on Wednesday next.

Mr. Beaumont Boggs was at last night's meeting chosen to act as general secretary, the present being the sixth year he has held that office; while Ald. R. T. Williams will perform the duties of general treasurer.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

Six witnesses gave evidence yesterday afternoon in the case against W. G. Cartwright, who is held for setting fire to the cabin at No. 70 View street, of which he is the tenant, on Monday morning last.

George E. Phillips told how he discovered the place to be on fire, and gave the alarm; Mrs. Phillips, the owner of the premises, testified to having seen Cartwright at the cabin the day before the fire—he had rented the place two months ago, just before he was sent to jail, and had not yet returned the key—and to having seen a letter on the table that day which the postman had placed under the door.

Chief Deputy, of the fire department, described the fire and how the entire contents of the house, with the exception of two beds, had been piled in the centre of the large room, over a hole in the ground and floor, which a fire had been laid. Dan McDonald gave evidence of finding a clock hanging on the wall at the time of the fire which was then going and had recently been wound; and John Hayes, bartender at the California, proved that Cartwright had come into his premises at

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Second Session of the Seventh Parliament. THIRTY-NINTH DAY.

THURSDAY, March 26, 1896. The Speaker took the chair at 3 p. m. Prayers by Rev. J. H. S. Sweet. Hon. Mr. TURNER announced that in deference to the wishes of the leader of the opposition he would defer until tomorrow the budget speech, which he had intended to deliver to-day.

The house went into committee, Mr. Booth in the chair, on the message from the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting the bill "respecting the consolidation of the claims and water rights of the Cariboo Gold Fields, Limited." In answer to the objection by Mr. Kitchen that this company were to be allowed to save the fee of \$400 charged for private bills, while two other companies asking similar privileges are now before the private bills committee, Hon. Mr. Turner said that the company are paying the \$400. The opposition objected at considerable length to making any distinction in favor of this bill, and the bill was then reported and read a first time.

MR. WALKER moved: "That a committee consisting of Messrs. Muttter, Booth, Kennedy, Forster and the mover of this resolution be appointed to inquire into the working of the act of 1888 respecting the scaling of logs in this province, with power to send for persons and papers, take evidence under oath and report to this house."

The mover explained that although the act of 1888 is now being amended by the act of 1894, he thought that a report could be presented before prorogation. He understood that the loggers of the Mainland had objected to their logs being scaled under this act; and he thought that the bill in respect to the Mainland district had the loggers that by using this scale they would lose thirty per cent. He denied that such would be the case, and instanced a case where on the other hand the difference had been thirty per cent. in favor of the loggers. He understood further that there is one mill in this city capable of cutting 25,000 feet a day which has never made any returns of stumpage to the government.

MR. KENNEDY supported the resolution.

HON. MR. MARTIN thought he knew why some of the loggers are not satisfied with the B. C. log scale—it is mathematically correct, so that the Dominion government intend, to apply it to all their lands in this province. It appeared that under the old scale the loggers got a good deal more than they were entitled to, and he thought that in objection to the resolution, but he did not think the statement could be correct that Inspector Skinner had advised against the use of the scale.

MR. KITCHEN, on the other hand, said that the present scale is not so good as the one that has been used in the Dominion. He said that the loggers got a good deal more than they were entitled to, and he thought that in objection to the resolution, but he did not think the statement could be correct that Inspector Skinner had advised against the use of the scale.

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reported progress, having adopted all the amendments. It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair.

AFTER RECESS. The house went into committee on the bill respecting the incorporation of literary societies, Major Muttter in the chair. Reported complete without amendments, read a third time and passed.

HON. MR. TURNER introduced a bill "to make further provision respecting the sinking funds existing under the 'British Columbia loan act, 1877,' and the 'British Columbia loan act, 1887.'" Read a first time.

The house went into committee on the bill authorizing the shooting of wild horses (Mr. Adams), with Mr. Bryden in the chair. Bill reported complete with amendments.

HON. MR. TURNER presented a message from the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting a bill respecting the British Columbia Southern railway. The message was referred to committee of the whole, Mr. Hunter in the chair, when it was explained that the bill simply extends the time for the land grant, in accordance with the extension of time for construction granted this session.

The bill was reported to the house and read a second time.

MR. HELMCKER moved the second reading of the investment and loan societies bill. This is to amend the present act, so as to give the companies the right to sell by public contract as well as by public auction; and also to permit of the transfer of property by assignment as well as by foreclosure—the objects of these amendments being to save unnecessary costs. Bill read a second time.

MR. KITCHEN moved the second reading of the municipal clauses bill. Read a second time, and considered in committee, Mr. Booth in the chair. The bill was reported and read a second time.

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plained, left us on the 30th June last with an overdraft of about \$80,000 to be provided for from the new loan. We now turn to the current year, that is up to the 30th June next. I think I shall be safe in saying that there are in the revenue estimates to amount to \$1,035,989. I may with confidence say that it will come very close to that figure, while the expenditure will be approximately as estimated. We will now increase what more immediately interests us, that is the estimates now in your hands for the coming year commencing 1st July next. The total revenue is placed at \$1,163,789, which is, I think, a conservative estimate, being only \$123,800 over the estimate for the current year; to this has to be added the amount on hand, about \$300,000. The increase arises as follows: An increase in timber royalties, \$10,000; mining receipts, \$30,000; licenses, \$15,000; real property tax, \$10,000; personal property tax, \$15,000; income tax, \$22,000; revenue tax, \$15,000; new mineral tax, \$75,000; interest and other minor increases, making in all \$217,000 increase. But from this we have to allow for some sources of revenue which are expected to produce less than the estimate for the current year. These are land sales, \$80,000; registry fees, \$2,000; miscellaneous, \$2,000, and other small amounts, making in all \$84,000. I think the increase of revenue hardly need much explanation. The mining receipts are based on the revenue that is now coming in so rapidly, owing to increased mining developments and the large influx of population arising therefrom. The increase under the head of taxes results partly from the normal increase that has been going on for some years, and added to this is the increased rate of taxation under the new assessment. The mineral tax speaks for itself. I admit that I am somewhat hazy as to this, but I have consulted some of the most eminent mining men in the province and have got their views about it; I have placed it at \$75,000, though many expect it will reach \$100,000. The largest estimate is that there will be \$13,000,000 of ore at market price turned out, whilst the lowest places the production at \$6,000,000. I have valued it close to the lowest limit. Taking the general outlook for mining, timber and other industries of the province, I believe that our estimate of revenue is under rather than over the mark.

If we now take up the expenditure for the same year, we find it placed at \$1,372,078, about \$600,000 less than the gross expenditure to the 30th June last and \$60,000 over the vote for the current year. For public debt there is an increase over the current year of \$76,475, being caused by the interest and sinking fund on the last loan of \$2,000,000. Civil government salaries are reduced by about \$10,000, caused by reductions all round. Administration of justice salaries show an apparent increase of about \$5,000, but this arises from the necessity of adding to the police force, the vote now providing for seven additional constables. There is also added a vote for sheriff, which was inadvertently left out last year, though it had to be paid. As a fact the salaries have been reduced in this department by about \$7,000. There is a reduction under maintenance of public institutions of about \$5,000, caused by the smaller requirements for the printing office and the provincial home; and for works and buildings \$37,000 less is asked, the large expenditure during the current year being principally on the public buildings in Nanaimo.

Under miscellaneous the decrease is about \$9,000, caused by the reduction in the votes for the London office, the board of health and the revision of the statutes. These account for much more, but on the other hand there are increased votes for fire departments and agricultural societies.

Administration of justice shows an increase of \$7,000. This is a subject of expenditure which it is almost impossible to reduce. The administration of justice has been effectively kept up for the advantage of the province. I may say that I believe this expenditure does a great deal of good, as the effectual administration of justice in our province is the admiration of strangers coming in. In the meantime, however, the men who have recently visited us assure me that it was a great satisfaction to them to invest in British Columbia. They said not only were we lightly taxed here, but we had perfect laws. The government, supported by the security for life and property but gave also roads, public works, schools, hospitals, all for the light tax enforced. Under education we see an increase of \$20,000, although most of this is for the extra-charge of the past. The increase arises solely on the large addition of children to our population. There are now, I believe, over 13,400 enrolled. The expenditure in roads, streets and bridges it will be seen is \$45,000 more than for the current year. I think you have only to look at the detailed votes for this to see that this large amount has been carefully administered so as to cover as far as possible the wants of the province and to aid in its development.

It will be noticed that a reduction has been made in salaries, not only under civil government and administration of justice, but also of the teachers' salaries. I think there is still another reduction that it will be well to make in committee; I refer to the ministers' salaries. These might in fairness be reduced 10 per cent. as in the case of the highest salaries in the various departments. I know that the supporters of the government in this house do not all agree with me in this, as they consider that the position of a minister is different from that of an employe, in that it is so much more precarious; for however able a minister may be, however industrious, there is no certainty of his keeping his position; yet I think the reduction might well be made in the committee.

Reverting to the new mineral tax, I may say that the feeling on both sides of the house is, that in view of the very large expenditure that has been made of late years with the object of assisting the mining population and of encouraging the development of the mineral resources, that the province is entitled to a return in the form of increased revenue from the districts that have been so benefited by this great expenditure. The utmost care has been exercised in the adjustment of the new tax in order to make it fair and not oppressive, and those interested in mines have expressed their opinion that the tax as proposed is eminently liberal and just. I am inclined to believe that if anything it errs in being rather too low. I might have referred to the loan which was

raised under the authority of the act passed at last session. This successful credit of the province has been fairly well established. In 1891 we had difficulty in getting \$4 for the issue of the issue, rather over \$1 1/2, and in fact then we virtually had no credit in the London market; whilst last year we obtained \$8 and but for the intense opposition of some of our own people, who used every effort by correspondence with London papers and in other ways to deery our credit, we certainly should have sold at 96, which would have given us \$21,000 more than we received. That is the cost to the province of the efforts of the enemies in our midst. The actual result of the issue was that we got, after paying all charges, rather over \$1 1/2, and the cost to the province for the new cash received is just over 3 1/2 per cent. I have to-day referred to the discount of 5 per cent. on the issue, which is treated in our accounts as if it was so much expenditure, and on previous occasions I have referred to the same subject. This discount, which amounts to \$101,850, is not expenditure. As a fact, though nominally we borrow \$7,000,000, we in reality borrow only \$1,035,989; and the amount we make an agreement to pay in 50 years \$2,037,000 and the rate of interest on the nominal amount is 3 per cent., which is equal to 3 1/2 on the sum actually borrowed. The sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum pays off the whole at maturity.

As a proof of the established credit of the province and of its recovery from the attacks made on it, I have only to say that to-day our 3 per cent. interest stock is worth 98 to 99. I remember that during the discussions on the loan at last session, gentlemen opposite said that our quotation at the time of 96 was a fiction, that our credit was simply patched up. Well, sir, it seems to have been patched up so effectively as to give us 1 1/2 per cent. more in 1895 than we got in 1891.

Complaint has been made that in connection with the conversion of our old loans we are offering too high a price. I think this is proved not to be the case, as if we offered too high the owners of our old loans would not have taken the offer. But it is quite the other way and virtually none is now being converted, so that at any rate we have not lost by the high rate offered. The trustees of the sinking fund may be relied on to look well to this.

I have now, sir, passed in somewhat hasty review the public accounts for the past year, the prospects for the present year and the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the coming year, condensing those subjects and referring more particularly to the salient points of each, which indicate important increases or decreases in receipts or expenditure and the causes and the reasons. I think that taking them as a whole they show that the province is making good and steady progress, and that—owing no doubt largely to the development of our mining districts—now going on at a greater proportion than it has hitherto done, and that the improvement in our mining prospects is likely to have a more beneficial effect in our agricultural sections.

MR. SEMLIN, after disclaiming any responsibility for the postponement of the budget speech from yesterday until to-day, proceeded to compliment the Finance Minister upon his last year's budget, to the warnings of the opposition and so changing the policy of the government as to seek to avoid further embarrassing the financial position of the province. The government have to a certain degree upheld the province, but in many respects they have been over-sanguine with respect to the result of the expenditures. He was glad to notice that the expenses anticipated are to be decreased, and that the Finance Minister is prepared to reduce his own salary along with the rest. He (Mr. Semlin) had protested against raising the salaries to the present rate, and he had never changed his opinion in this respect. He pointed out that once again there had been a large discrepancy between the estimated revenue and the actual receipts—a difference of \$200,000 he believed—and that it has been a matter of criticism for a great many years that the estimates had been thus widely astray. He had known all along that the government were not getting in the land revenue they anticipated, for he knew that the industries of the country, particularly agriculture, are in a very depressed condition, and that the buying powers of the people have been steadily decreasing. He thought, therefore, that the government should take steps to give relief from taxation, instead of increasing the rates as now proposed, and that this would have been possible but for the extravagance of the past. Dealing with the charge that the opposition in this province had treasonably exerted themselves to thwart the Finance Minister's endeavors to float the last loan at a satisfactory rate, he denied any such knowledge of any such machinations, and asked the name of the member of the opposition who had so acted.

HON. MR. TURNER—I never suspected you of any connection with it. MR. SEMLIN asked to be informed what member of the opposition it was. HON. MR. TURNER replied that he had not referred to the opposition in the house. He had referred to "opponents amongst our own people"—the people of the Province, who were writing disparaging letters to London. He thought, therefore, that the government should be informed what was the necessity for the Finance Minister going to London at all, seeing that there was in London a highly paid Agent General who had been supposed would be able to transact such matters. He regretted to see in the estimates even a reduced amount for this embassy in London, for a short trial having proved its uselessness he thought that this expense should be cut off altogether. Having taken up their retrenchment policy, the government have simply attacked the salaries of the officials, thus saving \$10,000 or a little more, but very far indeed from closing the gap between revenue and expenditure. That the last loan was placed at a higher figure than the former was not, he claimed, at all owing to the good management of the government, but was due to the surfeit of money in the London market, so that the items in the estimates to which the opposition object is the salary for the fifth minister, which the house is asked to vote year after year without its being paid. He hoped it never would be necessary to use it, and that when the Finance Minister moves to reduce the salaries of the ministers he will move also to strike out this one altogether. He thought that the pledge given by the Finance Minister

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HON. MR. TURNER—I never suspected you of any connection with it. MR. SEMLIN asked to be informed what member of the opposition it was. HON. MR. TURNER replied that he had not referred to the opposition in the house. He had referred to "opponents amongst our own people"—the people of the Province, who were writing disparaging letters to London. He thought, therefore, that the government should be informed what was the necessity for the Finance Minister going to London at all, seeing that there was in London a highly paid Agent General who had been supposed would be able to transact such matters. He regretted to see in the estimates even a reduced amount for this embassy in London, for a short trial having proved its uselessness he thought that this expense should be cut off altogether. Having taken up their retrenchment policy, the government have simply attacked the salaries of the officials, thus saving \$10,000 or a little more, but very far indeed from closing the gap between revenue and expenditure. That the last loan was placed at a higher figure than the former was not, he claimed, at all owing to the good management of the government, but was due to the surfeit of money in the London market, so that the items in the estimates to which the opposition object is the salary for the fifth minister, which the house is asked to vote year after year without its being paid. He hoped it never would be necessary to use it, and that when the Finance Minister moves to reduce the salaries of the ministers he will move also to strike out this one altogether. He thought that the pledge given by the Finance Minister

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MR. KELIE asked his bill respecting phone companies. He did not see how present state. Mr. adjourned debate. DR. WALKER in correspondence with London papers and in other ways to deery our credit, we certainly should have sold at 96, which would have given us \$21,000 more than we received. That is the cost to the province of the efforts of the enemies in our midst. The actual result of the issue was that we got, after paying all charges, rather over \$1 1/2, and the cost to the province for the new cash received is just over 3 1/2 per cent. I have to-day referred to the discount of 5 per cent. on the issue, which is treated in our accounts as if it was so much expenditure, and on previous occasions I have referred to the same subject. This discount, which amounts to \$101,850, is not expenditure. As a fact, though nominally we borrow \$7,000,000, we in reality borrow only \$1,035,989; and the amount we make an agreement to pay in 50 years \$2,037,000 and the rate of interest on the nominal amount is 3 per cent., which is equal to 3 1/2 on the sum actually borrowed. The sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum pays off the whole at maturity.

As a proof of the established credit of the province and of its recovery from the attacks made on it, I have only to say that to-day our 3 per cent. interest stock is worth 98 to 99. I remember that during the discussions on the loan at last session, gentlemen opposite said that our quotation at the time of 96 was a fiction, that our credit was simply patched up. Well, sir, it seems to have been patched up so effectively as to give us 1 1/2 per cent. more in 1895 than we got in 1891.

Complaint has been made that in connection with the conversion of our old loans we are offering too high a price. I think this is proved not to be the case, as if we offered too high the owners of our old loans would not have taken the offer. But it is quite the other way and virtually none is now being converted, so that at any rate we have not lost by the high rate offered. The trustees of the sinking fund may be relied on to look well to this.

I have now, sir, passed in somewhat hasty review the public accounts for the past year, the prospects for the present year and the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the coming year, condensing those subjects and referring more particularly to the salient points of each, which indicate important increases or decreases in receipts or expenditure and the causes and the reasons. I think that taking them as a whole they show that the province is making good and steady progress, and that—owing no doubt largely to the development of our mining districts—now going on at a greater proportion than it has hitherto done, and that the improvement in our mining prospects is likely to have a more beneficial effect in our agricultural sections.

MR. SEMLIN, after disclaiming any responsibility for the postponement of the budget speech from yesterday until to-day, proceeded to compliment the Finance Minister upon his last year's budget, to the warnings of the opposition and so changing the policy of the government as to seek to avoid further embarrassing the financial position of the province. The government have to a certain degree upheld the province, but in many respects they have been over-sanguine with respect to the result of the expenditures. He was glad to notice that the expenses anticipated are to be decreased, and that the Finance Minister is prepared to reduce his own salary along with the rest. He (Mr. Semlin) had protested against raising the salaries to the present rate, and he had never changed his opinion in this respect. He pointed out that once again there had been a large discrepancy between the estimated revenue and the actual receipts—a difference of \$200,000 he believed—and that it has been a matter of criticism for a great many years that the estimates had been thus widely astray. He had known all along that the government were not getting in the land revenue they anticipated, for he knew that the industries of the country, particularly agriculture, are in a very depressed condition, and that the buying powers of the people have been steadily decreasing. He thought, therefore, that the government should take steps to give relief from taxation, instead of increasing the rates as now proposed, and that this would have been possible but for the extravagance of the past. Dealing with the charge that the opposition in this province had treasonably exerted themselves to thwart the Finance Minister's endeavors to float the last loan at a satisfactory rate, he denied any such knowledge of any such machinations, and asked the name of the member of the opposition who had so acted.

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