

year been lumped up as a whole, and thought would have the effect of concentrating too much power in the hands of the government. Of course they are highly indignant if he suggests that power might possibly be used for political purposes, but it could be overlooked that the government is a man, the Attorney-General in particular would be indignant, and yet the suggestion might reasonably be made in view of the possibility of an approaching general election, which so many things seem to indicate.

He expressed surprise that anything whatever had been said by the members of the government about the sale of land. There were many men having purchased land in good faith believing that so long as they complied with the law the government would see that they were protected. They had paid instalments, paid for the survey of the land and in some instances had erected buildings.

Hon. Mr. Martin—Give a single instance of the men who have erected buildings.

Col. Baker said he could, and mentioned the one of Mr. Wulffson in Kootenay.

Hon. Mr. Martin—What building did he erect?

Col. Baker retracted the statement that Mr. Wulffson had erected buildings, but he had paid for the very.

Hon. Mr. Martin expressed surprise that the hon. gentleman should say anyone erected buildings on the land when it was well known no one had.

Col. Baker confined himself to the charge that men had purchased in good faith and paid for the survey, and had then been told they could have their money paid on instalments.

He said that the hon. gentleman would have to be the losers of that power, to take land back again for a purchase was a power which had not been used, not abused.

He expressed surprise that the hon. gentleman should say anyone erected buildings on the land when it was well known no one had.

Then the hon. gentleman began to be in error, referring to the hon. gentleman's statement in an elephantine manner.

He hoped his hon. friend the Premier might be expected to be one of those who would swell the revenue.

He said he was glad to hear the hon. gentleman say that the government had adopted a policy which they hoped would be to the benefit of the province.

He said that the hon. gentleman had been to the province and had seen the work done by the late government.

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the chamber muttering that it was an outrage. Whether it was a pity to cut off the discussion may be a matter of opinion, but the "big guns" to the left of the Speaker's chair having spoken, it seemed very likely little more of interest would be heard from that side of the House, so that perhaps, after all, the destinies of the country will not be seriously affected by the summary shutting off of the speeches which the "barn orators" might otherwise have inflicted upon the House.

VOTES GO THROUGH.

Mr. Higgins (Esquimalt, gov't.) was called to the chair when the House, in accordance with the resolution just passed, resolved itself into committee of the whole for the purpose of granting supply. The consideration of the various votes went through like clock-work, until something in the shape of a "snag" was unearthed by the senior member for Victoria (Mr. Helmcken). The first thing that struck that gentleman was in regard to the reduction of the salaries of the judges of the district court, particularly the district judge of the Supreme Court, who the estimates said, received an additional salary of \$500 from the Dominion. Mr. Helmcken made the statement that this was not so. Hon. Mr. Martin said that he believed that payment was made, but the matter would have to be revised if it were otherwise. The vote was passed.

LAND REGISTRY SALARIES.

Vote No. 32, \$25,000, land registry votes for the year, was the next subject of Mr. Helmcken's attack. He wanted to know something about it. Hon. Mr. Cotton asked what information he could give the hon. member? Mr. Helmcken said he wanted to know any-thing that was known about it. Hon. Mr. Cotton said that it would be noticed on comparing these estimates with those of last year the amount included in this vote amounted practically to the same as then set apart and decreed. Owing to the introduction of the Torrens system of land registration in the province, there would be certain changes necessary; those changes could not be decided upon immediately, and therefore it had been impossible to specify the amount of sums to be included in the vote.

Mr. Eberts (S. Victoria, opp.) said that when the House was considering the second reading of the Torrens land registry bill he had made the statement that he believed the salary of the registrar of the land registry would be \$5,000 and \$9,000 a year. He was told then by the Attorney-General that in this province the system would only cost \$20,000, but now he found that an increase had been made in the salary of the registrar. He formed the subject of conference between the ministers and undoubtedly some reason existed for the increase. What was the reason?

Hon. Mr. Cotton explained that the government had given the matter very careful consideration, and as the cost was largely a matter of estimate only, they had thought it wiser to ask for sufficient in this sum, rather than find themselves in the position of having to supplementaries. He had given all the information on the subject that was at his command.

SUPPLY.

The next vote, stipendiary magistrates, \$2,000, was also disposed of, but the following one, No. 34, provincial police, was a surprise. The hon. member for Esquimalt had laid down a definite policy of opening of the country, the construction of public works on a large scale. He had been assured of the natural resources of the province, and had no doubt that what was necessary to open up those resources which tended to the increase of the progress of the province, net expenditure for the year 1898 had been \$2,000,000, which \$729,000 had been expended on public works, revenue for the same year was \$623, leaving a surplus of \$108,000. He was convinced that the government could secure a fully competent man to perform the duties of this office for \$1,500 a year. He thought indeed that that sum was an excessive one for the work of the position. That was the principle upon which the adjustments of salaries should be made. He was highly of Mr. Hussey. He might say that it was not from choice that Mr. Hussey was holding the position of superintendent of provincial police. He had held very important positions in the upper country and had been brought down here by the late Hon. Mr. Davie because he was a man whose experience and ability peculiarly fitted him for the important position. He had not been hard that after he had worked so long for the province he should find himself, now, if he might say so, in the afternoon of his life, reduced in salary when he might other professions have been earning more each year.

Col. Baker also objected to the reduction of the salary of the superintendent. He believed that such a course would be the result of demoralizing the service.

Hon. Mr. Martin explained that the reduction in the salaries had become necessary owing to the way in which the government had fixed the remuneration of employees. He had not been placed on a basis of a system; a man had been paid not because of the value of the work he did, but because he was a person with the government.

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putting up positions for auction. That was a deliberate twisting of the Attorney-General's words. He believed that one of the duties of the government was to take the responsibility of finding competent men to fill the various positions in the civil service. At salaries which would be fair recompense, and he had never heard from any of the members opposite any complaint as to the appointments the government had made. The vote carried.

THE JUVENILE REFORMATORY.

Vote No. 35, superintendent of the juvenile reformatory, Victoria, \$840, afforded another subject of conversation to Mr. Helmcken. He referred to the visit paid to the reformatory by the committee appointed on the motion of Mr. Higgins. He thought in the first place the reformatory should not be situated where it is, in close proximity to the jail. The effect was the boys were considered as jail birds. There should be some efficient means of giving them instruction which would be of use to them and of drawing them from their evil ways. Then the superintendent, owing to the fact that twenty-out of every twenty-four hours he had to be in the reformatory, was in that sense, almost as much a prisoner as the boys. He expressed his hope that something would be done to remedy the present unsatisfactory state of affairs.

THE MEMBERS' INDEMNITY.

Some fun was created when vote No. 42, indemnity to members, \$22,900, was reached. Mr. Eberts started it by asking if there had been no change made in the salary of Mr. Helmcken following his on-by referring to a previous occasion when the willingness to reduce the sessional allowance to \$400 had been expressed by members now sitting on the government side. Mr. Eberts said that if the Finance Minister would move to reduce the amount to \$400 he would support it. Mr. Cotton blandly recommended Mr. Helmcken to move it himself. The senator for Victoria accepted the invitation in his most jovial manner and sent up the amendment. He had previously expressed his opinion that the valuable services rendered by the members were worth more than the \$600.

Mr. Henderson (New Westminster) proposed to vote against the amendment. The arguments used by Mr. Helmcken as to the value of the members' services convinced him and he could not change so quickly as to be convinced one way, and vote another the moment afterwards.

Hon. Mr. Smith said that when a proposition was made to reduce the salary of the members from \$400 to \$600 he had opposed it on the ground that the people had elected the members to represent them at \$400 a year, and he could not favor the idea of increasing that salary. He was more the people and with-out their having an opportunity of expressing an opinion thereupon. Now, however, there had been several elections; the electors knew well how much the members were getting, and there was no expressed desire for a reduction thereof.

Mr. Eberts thought the same principle which applied to the superintendent of provincial police applied to the payment of members. He was more the people and with-out their having an opportunity of expressing an opinion thereupon. Now, however, there had been several elections; the electors knew well how much the members were getting, and there was no expressed desire for a reduction thereof.

Hon. Mr. Smith pointed out that there had been a change in the salary of the members from \$400 to \$600.

Mr. A. W. Smith favored the amendment; Mr. K. B. Henderson was ready and willing to sacrifice himself in this way with a eulogy of Supt. of Provincial Police Hussey. He could not understand what principle had been followed in the reduction of that official's salary. He thought the members of the House were well paid, and he was an old, tried and valued servant of the province and it seemed a decided hardship that he should find his salary reduced at this time.

Hon. Mr. Martin said the principle upon which the salaries had been fixed is that officials should be paid for the value of the work they did, and not on the basis of what kind of men those officials were. He was more the people and with-out their having an opportunity of expressing an opinion thereupon. Now, however, there had been several elections; the electors knew well how much the members were getting, and there was no expressed desire for a reduction thereof.

Major-General Kinchin suggested that the members' salaries be fixed on the basis of the salaries of the members of the House of Commons.

Mr. Neil (Alberni) pointed out that the reduction of the sessional indemnity meant that the members would be paid less for the work they did.

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requiring more attendance, an additional medical assistant and increased cost of maintenance owing to the greater number of patients.

Mr. McPhillips agreed with all Mr. Helmcken said.

Hon. Mr. Martin maintained that these things must be regarded on a business basis. Victoria had been receiving \$10,000 a year from the provincial government and it is in close proximity to the jail. In Vancouver they had a hospital, of which the people were also very proud, but they paid \$15,000 themselves, or three times the amount received from the government. If Victoria could get a hospital in the city, they should pay for it. It became a provincial affair. Victoria had been unduly favored in the past, which accounted for the feeling that the province was being imposed upon. It was not a provincial affair. Victoria had been unduly favored in the past, which accounted for the feeling that the province was being imposed upon. It was not a provincial affair.

Mr. Helmcken followed with another eulogy of the Jubilee hospital, with which he made a comparison to the hospital in the province to compare.

THE SPEAKER'S DEPARTMENT.

By Mr. Ralph Smith—Report of the special committee to enquire into the grievances of the employees of the Victoria and Esquimalt Telephone Company, stating that the employees were not paid for overtime work.

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foundings upon it, for him, very entertaining speech. He was a colloquialist, and he spoke in the discussion on the same measure and imparted a few, may, a whole lot of useful and important facts brought up, although it was not directly touched upon by the bill, and therefore could not be discussed now, another question which sooner or later would have to be faced, and that was whether the province could continue indefinitely to allow large tracts of lands to remain untaxed, because they have been originally granted under such conditions as to allow of such a measure.

It was a day of business. Early in the afternoon Hon. Mr. Martin suggested that all the second readings be taken up and the committee stages of bills ordered paper left over. As there were sixteen of these second readings it was apparent there was going to be a lot of work got through—and so it proved.

The house was in session seven o'clock, adjourning until tomorrow at thirty-five minutes before midnight.

The Speaker took the chair at two o'clock, and prayers were read by Rural Dean Rev. W. D. Barber.

Mr. Hume then entered the house, escorted by Hon. the Finance Minister and Mr. Green, was presented to the Speaker and took his seat.

Mr. Green—From E. R. Atherton and 403 other citizens of the district asking for the consideration of the house in reference to the railroad and wagon roads of that district. Ruled out of order as involving the expenditure of public money.

By Mr. Ralph Smith—Report of the special committee to enquire into the grievances of the employees of the Victoria and Esquimalt Telephone Company, stating that the employees were not paid for overtime work.

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in the way of those prospectors and sought to derive a revenue from them. There was no doubt that the greater freedom and opportunity they gave to free miners, the greater the advantage to the railway companies themselves. This matter brought up, although it was not directly touched upon by the bill, and therefore could not be discussed now, another question which sooner or later would have to be faced, and that was whether the province could continue indefinitely to allow large tracts of lands to remain untaxed, because they have been originally granted under such conditions as to allow of such a measure.

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