Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1885.

PERJURY AND FORGERY.

Day by day, as the evidence taken by the squatters' committee is published, the wisdom of the government in resisting claims that are now shown to have no legal existence, and of the house in sending the report back to the committee, is becoming more apparent. The developments since Monday have been of a startling character. They involve charges of forgery, perjury and fraud. Mr. McTiernan—a most exemplary official and a citizen whose word is as good as his bond—emphatically swears that his attesting signature as it appears at the foot of a document which purports to convey to one J. M. M. Spinks, the right, title and interest of two Indians called "Charley" and "Jim" in certain lands is a forgery. Mr. McTiernan remembers witnessing signatures to a paper; but only one Indian (Charley) and S. Greer instead of Spinks were parties thereto. The paper only conveyed the improvements on the land and not the land. That paper, moreover, was smaller than the one the squatters produced in evidence; it was in Greer's handwriting, (having been written in Mr. McTiernan's presence,) and there were no seals attached. The alleged forged document is written on a half-sheet of foolscap in a scholarly hand (which Greer's is not) and has seals attached. To drive the charge home the witness further swears that the first document brought by Greer proposed to convey the land; but he (witness) objected to it, and Greer wrote another paper only covering the improvements. Mr. McTiernan adds that he never saw the Indian "Jim," (since dead) one of the alleged signers of the document before the committee, in his life. "Charley," an Indian, testified (through an interpreter) that at the urgent request of Greer he went to New Westminster and signed a paper at McTiernan's place; that the paper was about one-quarter [illegible] a sheet of foolscap in size: th[illegible] in black ink [illegible] purple [illegible]-half a [illegible] went on to [illegible] was at the inlet, being too [illegible] to come to New Westminster, and that he was not a party to the document in any manner. Witness had lived only four years on the land instead of 20 years as alleged by the claimants. Only Greer, McTiernan and witness were present, and McTiernan witnessed only Greer's and witness' signatures. Such, we understand, is the substance of the evidence taken by the committee. Had it been taken in a court of law it is not too much to say that there would have been a case for the assizes prepared ere this. The value of the property, which is immense, has nought to do with the present inquiry. If it were worth only $10 instead of $500,000, had a legal title been established the government would not have been justified in refusing a Crown grant. Nay, more: if the claims had been just the house would never have been bothered about them. With the example of Mr. Farwell before their eyes the squatters would have gone immediately to the supreme court and would have won their case. From the inception of this agitation the proceedings of the squatters have been of a suspicious nature. They have shunned the courts religiously; but they have haunted the legislative hall and pressed their claims on the attention of honorable members with a pertinacity and industry worthy of a better cause. It is true that a favorable report of the committee and the endorsement of that report by the house would not give the conspirators the land; but it is not often that a government is found with sufficient backbone to resist clamor that might have been recommended by a majority in a house of which three-fourths of the members are supporters of the ministry. That the government have resisted is greatly to their credit. From the first we have regarded all the squatters' claims to Burrard Inlet property as bogus; but we have frequently pointed out the proper course for them to pursue, viz: to carry their case into court on a petition of right. Not alone will the ministry assent to a petition of right; they will probably agree to bear the costs of a judicial reference. But they will never be hectored or bullied into acknowledging as just claims that there is now abundant reason for saying have no legal foundation—are based, in fact, upon perjury and forgery.

A NEW RAILWAY.

A bill to incorporate the Semilkameen and Thompson River Railway Company is to be laid before the house to-day and a proposed enterprise which bears on its face every appearance of an excellent thing for the province, should be fairly considered. The company is composed of leading business men and capitalists of this city and New Westminster. The capital stock is to be two million dollars, divided into one hundred thousand shares of twenty dollars each. The route of the proposed line is from some point on the south branch of the Semilkameen river to the Canadian Pacific railway at some point near Kamloops. The country through which the road will pass is rich in minerals and coal, the latter of a kind known as Scotch blacksmith coal, and the region is, in every respect, one which should invite settlement. At present it is almost uninhabited; from the proposed starting point of the railway the nearest settler is forty-eight miles to the south; to the north-west is Nicola sixty-three miles off, and Hope on the Fraser river is sixty-seven miles to the west—the intervening land being unoccupied. A railway making this region accessible could not fail to promote its settlement. The country is well watered by the tributaries of Okanagan river and lake, contains a large amount of prairie land; and, from all accounts, may be considered one of finest portions of the province. The proposed road is to be of a uniform gauge of four feet, eight inches and a half, and the act provides that its construction shall be commenced on or before the first day of July 1887, the survey to be commenced in July next. Three years being allowed for its construction the completion of the road would be guaranteed for 1890. The act may require some amendment; but taken as a whole it sets forth a most commendable object. It is by such enterprises as this that British Columbia must be developed; and those interested in the scheme comprise some of our most trustworthy and public-spirited citizens.

BRITISH TRADE.

The London Economist published recently a table showing the value of all the goods imported into Great Britain during the year 1884, showing also what the value of these goods would be according to the prices of the previous year, and in each case whether increase or diminution was caused by increase or diminution of quantity or of price. In many cases quantities largely increased, and yet owing to the great decrease of price the amount entered as the value was much less than in the previous year. Of manufactures and materials for manufactures that were imported, a considerable quantity was re-exported as the following statement shows:

	1884.	1883.	Difference.
	£	£	£
Gross Imports	389,774,519	425,003,922	35,229,383
Re-exported	62,443,715	66,687,597	3,192,882
Retained	327,330,834	359,956,335	32,625,501

In the amount stated as re-exported are not included the vast quantities of raw materials which are worked up and exported as of British manufacture. On the cost of the whole of the imports consumed in Great Britain there was a reduction of about ten per cent. The Economist summarizes the result of its calculations as follows:

"First—We have in the year which has just closed, imported less in value by nearly £36,000,000, of which £11,000,000 is because we have received fewer goods, and £25,000,000 because those we have received have fallen in value. In other words, our import trade has shrunk 2½ per cent. in volume, and this diminished volume has fallen rather more than 6½ per cent. in value.

"Second.—Of the shrinkage £32,000,000 has been in articles of food or consumption, which is so much saving in expenditure, and less than £4,000,000 in the various substances imported for manufacturing purposes, or already manufactured for use.

"Third—That of the saving in the first category, the one half, £16,000,000, is owing to lesser quantities, and an equal sum to lower prices.

"Fourth—That the diminished cost of the articles coming under the other description is the difference between nearly £5,000,000 additional for bulk, and not far from £9,000,000 saving on prices. That is, we have obtained more by 2 1-3 per cent., at an expenditure of 4 per cent. less money.

"Fifth—That of the £32,000,000 saved on food supplies, £21,000,000 is in corn and farinaceous substances, and £5,000,000 in sugar, the remainder being pretty equally divided between animal food, beverages and those which, being undistinguished, may belong to either of the others.

"Sixth—That of the increase of nearly £5,000,000 due to larger quantities, and the decrease of £9,000,000 in prices in the other classes £2,000,000 is due to textile materials, of which we have taken more, but at a saving of £500,000 in price; nearly £500,000 more to quantity of metals, which have cost £1,300,000 less, and £3,000,000 to the quantity of fully manufactured articles, in which, however, the saving in value very nearly balances the additional bulk. The miscellaneous articles have diminished less than £1,000,000 in bulk, and nearly £4,000,000 in value.

"On the whole, though trade has been dull, occasioned by there having been less to deal in, and inferior prices to be obtained, the loss of which may have been of serious importance to those on whom it has fallen, yet it cannot be said that from a consumer's point of view it has been an unfavorable year."

HON. A. F. PEMBERTON.

This gentleman has finally resigned as a magistrate and after nearly thirty years of arduous duty is a private citizen once more. In a previous article reference was made to the retiring gentleman's services in the interest of the province—services that were rendered, in many instances, without fee or reward—and the hope was expressed that the government would recognize those services in some substantial manner. May we not again express the hope that in framing the estimates Mr. Pemberton's great claims will not be lost sight of? The ministry could perform no more popular or graceful act than to make provision for the discharge of those claims.

THE DOMINION LIQUOR ACT.

The more the matter is considered the more the conviction is forced upon us that "some one has blundered," in sending or in interpreting the dispatch under which the Dominion liquor license commissioners propose to act on the 22d of next month. To convince the public that this impression is correct we content ourselves with quoting from the "Liquor License Amendment Act" of last session, which sets forth as follows:

26. Whereas doubts have arisen as to the power of parliament to pass "The Liquor License Act, 1883," and the amendments thereof contained in this act, it is therefore enacted, that until the question of the competence of the parliament of Canada to pass the said act, and this act, be determined as hereinafter provided, no prosecution for the infringement or violation of the said Liquor License Acts shall be instituted against any holder of a license for selling liquor granted to him under the authority of any statute passed in any of the provinces, so long as such license under such authority is in force.

2. And for the purpose of having the said question determined as soon as possible, the governor in council may refer to the supreme court of Canada for hearing and determination, the said question as to the competence of parliament to pass the said acts, in whole or in part; and such court shall thereupon hear and determine the same and certify their opinion to the governor in council, and in their opinion a part or parts of the said acts only were within the competence of parliament, then they shall certify to the governor in council what part or parts thereof are within such competence.

3. The lieutenant-governor of any of the provinces may, with the consent of the governor in council, on behalf of the province of which he is the lieutenant-governor, become a party to the said case; and in the event of any province thus being a party thereto, it shall be entitled to be heard by counsel on the argument thereof; and all or any of the said provinces may, with the like consent, become parties thereto.

4. The judgment of the said supreme court shall be final, unless at the request of the governor general or of the lieutenant-governor of any province who may have been party to the case, Her Most Gracious Majesty may be pleased to refer the matter of the said case and the decision of the supreme court thereon to the judicial committee of her Majesty's privy council.

It will thus be seen that the commissioners have no power to press for penalties under the act, and that although they may go through the form and grant 9 hotel and 6 saloon licenses, they cannot restrict in any way the sale of liquor by publicans who hold licenses under the provincial act. We doubt if they have power to issue licences, and it is possible that should they attempt to carry out their instructions they will find themselves in a very awkward position. Neither the municipal nor provincial governments will stand idly by while the rights of the province are being invaded in the manner proposed.

A UNITED EMPIRE.

The scheme for consolidating Great Britain and her colonies has long been favored by a few political economists in England who probably never expected their ideas to become so popular as they now are. It is certainly a new thing to find the workingmen, who were popularly supposed to have no interest in foreign affairs except the prosecution of a war, or the maintenance of a navy might influence taxation, advocating a federation of the empire. At a recent conference of workingmen held in London resolutions were adopted favoring the scheme, and Mr. George Potter, president of the Workingmen's Association, has since written a letter to the London Times in which he urges the importance of uniting all parts of the empire in such a way that each portion may, by supplying the wants of the rest, contribute to its own individual prosperity, and so to the welfare of the whole. He says:—"Considering the depressed state of our agriculture, and the difficulty of England, for the future, competing profitably as a grain growing country with the fertile lands of the colonies, and considering the necessity of providing for the transfer of many of our people to more inviting fields of labor, it is a matter of great importance, in the interest of Great Britain and her colonies, and there should be forthwith established an imperial government to secure free trade and mutual taxation for imperial purposes between England and her dependencies, to which the stream of emigration might in future be directed." After expressing a fear that the liberal party are indifferent to the federation of the empire, he adds, "If this is so, it will prove a disastrous policy to the party and the nation. Whoever aspires to lead the coming democracy must recognize the vital interests of our industrial population, which are now at stake, and must make it a cardinal principle of his foreign policy to consolidate, develop and secure our colonial possessions by the formation of a vast political federation." That such a proposition should receive such a hearty support from a representative of the working classes at a time when Henry George and other agitators are preaching land nationalization and other schemes more or less pernicious as the only remedy for poor men's ills, is indicative of the intelligence and common sense which prevail among English workingmen.

THE steamer Evangel will make one trip each week from the Sound to Victoria.

FOURTH PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THIRD SESSION.

TUESDAY, Feb. 17th.

The speaker took the chair at two o'clock.

Prayers were offered by the Rev. Mr. Baras.

HON. Mr. Smithe presented a copy of the Hastings Sawmill lease asked for.

COUNTY COURTS.

The house went into committee on the county court bill, Mr. Helgesen in the chair.

The bill was taken up from clause 89 and the various clauses passed to the 140th clause, when the committee reported progress and will sit again.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Mr. Drake, in moving the second reading of this bill said that he did not hold the same opinion as many others. For his part he could not see why they should exclude women from the franchise. We recognize the fact that women have shown themselves fully equal and competent to carry on all that a man could do. They had relieved married women from the leading strings that had so long held them, for they could now hold property in their own names, and also carry on business in their own right, and why should they not now be given the privilege of voting for the men who made the laws of the land, which affected them with the men; they gave girls and boys the same education to fit them for life, but in the advanced race of life they excluded them from the higher advantages. The women now simply asked the privilege of voting, not that they should be placed on the jury list or sit as members of this house. It had been claimed that it would interfere with their domestic duties. There were many women in the city who were unmarried who owned property and were engaged in business, and it could not be claimed that in this case it would interfere. He would refer to the notable fact of one woman who had engaged in politics and who had not neglected her domestic duties—their noble queen, who, while exercising a keen insight into the various moves on the world's political table, had always been a model in domestic life. It had been claimed that it was not for a woman's advantage to vote, and that it would be interfering with the domestic life of men by allowing their wives to vote. It was not compulsory to register or vote in any case, and those who did not wish to do so could refrain from it. This question had never been submitted to the polls and it could not be raised as a question there. Petitions that have been sent in could probably have been doubled in number if time had been allowed. Women had shown themselves the equal of man in almost every branch that she had undertaken, and had been the equal of the brightest scholars of the day. He would like to know why women should not be given the right to register their names to vote for whom they pleased. (Applause.)

Mr. Pooley had listened with great attention to the remarks of the hon. mover, but heard nothing adduced to make him change the opinion he held at the last session of the house. He was certain that his hon. friend was not sincere in the introduction of the bill, but some circumstance had compelled him to do so. He did not think the ladies who had signed the petition were well informed in what position they would be placed if such a bill was passed. The petition asked for the extension to the women the political franchise. If the ladies wanted the privilege of voting they should also assume the responsibilities. (Hear, hear.) It certainly was not the wish of members of this house to have their female relatives, their wives, daughters or sisters hanging around the supreme court waiting to be called to try some disgusting case. (No, no.) They would not want their female relatives annoyed by political aspirants calling on them soliciting their votes and arguing points in politics. He had too much respect for woman to vote for a measure to bring her forward into the coarser phases of life—their better feelings would be blunted by such privilege. They were trying to drag them forward into public life and he was sure that if those who sought the franchise knew what they were really asking for they would withdraw their names from the petition. It would destroy the home influence and would lessen the good teaching of a mother. He hoped that the measure would be voted down and remain so until another election had taken place, and if it was the wish of his constituents to vote for such a measure should he have the honor to be re-elected then he would do so.

Mr. Galbraith said that he had always complimented his hon. friend who just sat down for always expressing good common sense, but in this particular instance he thought he was wrong. The sincerity of the introducer of the bill was attested to by the best that he had done so in the face of a decided opposition to it last session. He believed the time had come when women had a right to vote. They were moving in the matter in England, and a measure would probably be introduced at the next session of parliament. Nearer home they had Washington Territory, where the farther extension of the franchise to sit on juries was given. This was more than his honorable friend, the mover, asked to be done. Judge Green, of Washington Territory, had given his opinion that the last term of the supreme court was the most satisfactory one for many years, from the fact that women had a voice on the juries. The presence of woman's vote had purified the atmosphere of Seatkle, where they had broken up evil rings. His hon. friend had objected to women because it would introduce them among the turbulence of man. He thought this was a good argument in favor of woman voting, for it would calm down this turbulence and elevate the standard of man. (Hear, hear.) He believed that the time had come when it was necessary that the franchise should be extended to women. They were moving in that direction in Oregon also, and we here in British Columbia should not be behind the times. The extension of the franchise to women would have the effect of purifying the atmosphere of political life.

Mr. T. Davie thought it better that the bill should be read six months hence. The petitions which had been presented, and the eloquent speeches of the two hon. gentlemen who had spoken in favor of female suffrage, had not induced him to favor the franchise asked. The petition was largely signed by children from 12 to 18 years of age. (Cries of "No, no".) Yes. He would not be so invidious as to mention the names of gentlewomen and children whose names should not be dragged into politics or mentioned on the floor of the house, but what was the purport of the measure proposed, but to destroy the effeminacy of women? From an abstract point of view the arguments based on the equality of women in an intelligent point of view to men, and that all had an equal right to vote, were plausible but false in premies. The franchise was not an inherent right, but a concession, and those to whom the concession had been extended, the male voters of the province, were the ones who had placed hon. members of the house where they are now, and to whom members of the house are responsible. Before any change in the franchise was made it should be submitted to the people. If they saw fit to confer the electoral privileges which they hold, upon a different class, they are at liberty to do it, but it is not for their representatives to do so. If he were discussing the matter on the hustings he should dissuade people from extending the franchise to women. He thought our forefathers had acted wisely in denying it to them. In the first place he believed that a majority of the desirable class of women did not desire the privilege or responsibility of voting. They would shrink from the jostling and publicity of the polls. How unseemly it would be for your wife, sister or female friends to attend public meetings at election times, and yet unless voters attend public meetings how can they judge who is the right candidate to vote for. As he was informed female suffrage existed in none of the United States and only in two of the territories, i. e. Wyoming and Washington Territory, and in these places it was considered that woman's suffrage retarded their admission as states. Women's suffrage had been adopted in the states of New Jersey and Wisconsin but after a short trial the good sense of those states had abolished it. The better classes of women would hesitate to avail themselves of the privilege of voting—abandoned and depraved women, with no principles or modesty, would readily avail themselves of it—the result of which inevitably would be, and had proved to be, that the undesirable class of women would carry things their own way. A woman's proper sphere is in her home; when she goes into politics her domestic duties must be neglected. The remarks of Judge Greene of Washington Territory quoted by the hon. member for Kootenay furnished no guide. That learned judge was a strong advocate of women's rights and his utterances are traceable to that fact. He viewed everything concerning this subject through the "green" spectacles of prejudice and not according to actual facts, which he (Mr. Davie) had been informed by reliable citizens of Seattle spoke very unfavorably for the women voters of the place. He should oppose the measure heart and soul.

Hon. Mr. Robson opposed such a step on various grounds. It had been on the orders for a long time, and he thought the two members who were absent would not alter the circumstances, for one would oppose and the other likely favor the measure. He was surprised at the remarks that fell from the hon. member for Esquimalt, who had been acting a Rip Van Winkle part and had retained the old prejudices that he held when he first arrived in this province from England 25 years ago. When the great railway was completed, and his hon. friend took the opportunity afforded of visiting old scenes across the Atlantic, he would find changes as great as Rip Van Winkle had found on returning home after his twenty years slumber. The franchise was not where our forefathers had left it but had been extended, and the motto had always been "Excelsior," onwards and upwards. Their forefathers were good fellows, old fogies, though, to a great extent, and he did not believe in following their fossilized notion of things. His hon. friend would find on a return to his native land that the franchise had been greatly extended and was shaping itself so as to embrace women as well as men. It was true that women had not been given the political franchise, but had the right to vote for school trustees, and it had been found that they managed just as well as men in directing the education of the country. His hon. friend had asked if they would like to have their wives or daughters solicited for votes. He would, as far as he was concerned, be perfectly willing that a candidate should solicit his wife's vote unless some scalawag politician happened to be the candidate. The extension of the franchise to women would have the effect of keeping these political scalawags from attempting to obtain a seat in the legislature. He had the information that 250 members had voted for the franchisement of women at the late session of the English parliament, which was a proof of the advance that was being made in England. His hon. friend, instead of going backward should advance with the cause of reform generally and in the enfranchisement of women lest they had one step in the right direction. His hon. friend had also said that the polls were no place for women. He had said also that wide and loud jokes were always hushed when women came into man's presence. This was a strong argument in favor of such a privilege being extended to women, for it would do away with obscene jokes and teach husbands, fathers and sons that they should not indulge in language at any time that they would not wish their mothers and sisters to hear. Did his hon. friend not know that women had followed men into the battle and ministered to his sufferings there in the most fearful scenes of life. For this they had not been condemned but had been honored by the highest power in the land, from the mother of the Queen herself. Woman's presence at the ballot box was calculated to make man more refined and elevated, and that in itself should be a strong argument in favor of female franchise. His hon. friend did not want women shut out of the franchise so as to allow man to use profane and obscene language. He hoped not. If the admission of women into the political franchise was going to elevate politics, for God's sake let it be extended to them, so as to prevent their sons who entered political life from indulging in the degrading influences he had said was a fact of British Columbia politics. The vote at the school elections had been one-third women, and was not that of children or bad women, but of the most desirable and respectable women of the city. The petition presented from Victoria had over 1300 names and were not the names of children, but were principally those of married women and respectable married women. (Hear, hear.) His hon. friend had said that they had no right to extend the franchise. It was done in England and in the way this bill proposed, and this house had an unquestionable right to extend the franchise if it so wished, and the petitions presented only made that right greater. This hon. friend for Victoria had said we should follow the wisdom of our forefathers who had limited the franchise to men. This was going further than his friend from Esquimalt. Adam was a wise man, and therefore we should follow in his footsteps. If we followed the advice of our forefathers we would be remaining still instead of advancing on the road to enlightenment, progress and liberality. Washington Territory had been referred to, and it was said that the lewd women had taken possession of the polls and had driven virtuous women away. The fact was that the pure women had exercised their rights to such an extent as to drive the prostitutes and gamblers of Seattle from that place to Victoria for refuge. If we were to be the receptacle of this refuse of the neighboring territory it was time that we should adopt the same means as they had done to keep that most undesirable element from our shores. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Smithe said that he had not changed his opinion previously held, unlike his hon. friend who sat behind him, who had on a former occasion spoke as eloquently against female suffrage as he had now spoken in favor of it. He believed it unwise to extend the political franchise to women. It was not that he did not believe women intelligent and wise enough to use the franchise, but that it would disarrange the homes and introduce discord where there was now peace and happiness. Women exercised a wonderful influence for good in their home in educating their children in the way that was right. If the franchise was extended it would cause women to neglect their children and lose the influence they now swayed over them. If they were going to extend the franchise let them also extend to women the means of forming correct views on political matters. He would ask hon. gentlemen if they would want their wives and sisters in a crowded political meeting in Philharmonic Hall. No they would not for they would be subjected to indignity and insult. His hon. friend behind him had said if the franchise was extended to them it would elevate the conduct of men at the polls. They might be down in some cases, but there were many who would be subject to no such influence and who would not restrain themselves in the least by the presence of women among them. It would also have the tendency to make them impure (Hear, hear and no), and destroy their otherwise good influence. It would be as wise to introduce ink into milk to purify it as to introduce women into politics to purify them. The object sought by the petitioners was to some extent a good one, for it wanted to place the franchise so as to make reforms in the province such as that proposed in the liquor question. The petitions from Comox, Nanaimo and Wellington were a small minority and should not influence the members. He had strong views about the subject and proposed to exercise his best judgment. There were large numbers of women who would have to vote in ignorance and would most probably duplicate her husband's vote. If the husband could have two votes it would be better than have two individuals vote in the family. They very well knew the excited state that men got into over politics and women being of weaker temperament would most likely become excited to a greater extent, which would in the end lead to unhappy results. He would oppose most strenuously the extension proposed.

Mr. Wilson said he believed the honorable gentlemen who had expressed themselves had only expressed their own thoughts. This was not his state for he had come willing to be convinced on any good argument that was adduced. He had not heard much of any argument and was very much at sea about what he should do in the matter. He, however, believed more in the sound Rip Van Winkle sense of the honorable member from Esquimalt than the elegant rhetoric of the honorable Provincial Secretary. A right conclusion was not to be arrived at without experience, and he would ask honorable members if it was not their belief that they could not come to a conclusion on any subject with a woman without an experience. (Laughter.) He was elected by men and would extend his vote to female franchise without the consent of those who sent him there; if they would favor it, then he would vote for it, and without consulting his own private theories in the matter. The honorable Provincial Secretary has asserted that year by year the franchise in England had been extended, but he was under the impression that there was no franchise extended since 1867 until this year. They had also been told that franchised women had driven out prostitutes and gamblers, but they still retained the criminal. They were earnest in speaking up the peccadilloes of men, but when it came to giving a severe or life-long sentence for an offence woman was not equal to the task. This was proved at a recent murder trial in Washington Territory where the prisoner was acquitted. Until he had received an opinion of his constituents he would not be prepared to vote for the question.

Mr. Orr said he had looked over the petition from New Westminster and found that out of the eighty females on the list that twenty of them to his knowledge were girls under sixteen years of age, and out of the balance of the 300 or more names he saw many that were mere boys.

Mr. Cunningham said that he knew New Westminster as well as his hon. friend that had just sat down, and he had been told by a gentleman who would not tell an untruth [A Member—A second Geo. Washington] that no names on the list were under sixteen. He would support the extension of the franchise; was in sympathy with the bill, and he did not think it it was passed that it would entail any suffering. (Hear, hear.) He hoped that the bill would pass, if not this session then the next.

Mr. Grant said that to some extent we know how few the franchise had been extended in England. One hon. gentlemen had advocated following the lines set down by our forefathers. He was surprised that he should do this. (Hear.) If the franchise had remained where it first was then where would the Jews, the Catholics and other be now? The franchise would have still been confined to the few in the privilege.l classes. [The speaker here read extracts from various papers showing the advantage of woman suffrage in cities where published.] He had no doubt, like the provincial secretary, that the tendency was onward and upward and he believed so sure as the tide flowed on these shores so sure also would they be compelled to grant this privilege asked for. He believed the influence of women at the polls would be most beneficial. The petition of 1300 names would have turned him in favor of the bill if he had trembled in the balance in reference to his vote. Unlike the hon. premier he would rather liken the introducing of women into the franchise to strawberries and cream—the one was never so good without the other. (Laughter.) He would give the bill his most willing vote.

Mr. McTavish said that he had changed his mind since last session. The hon. gentleman who had just sat down had imputed some mean things against our ancestors and he felt sure if any of those ancient persons were here they would resent them. He would ask where would we be if it were not for our ancestors! (Laughter and cheers.) He thought that matters should remain where they were at present.

The motion that the bill be read a second time was then put and lost on the following division:—

Yeas—Duck, Grant, Galbraith, Beaven, Cunningham, Semlin, Robson, Drake and Raybould—9.

Nocs—Helgesen, McTavish, Cowan, T. Davie, Orr, John, Pooley, Smithe, A. E. B. Davie, Dingwall, C. Wilson, McLeese, Martin, Dunsmuir—14.

The house adjourned at 5:30.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 18.

The speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock.

Prayers were offered by the Rev. Mr. Barss.

POLLING PLACES.

Mr. Galbraith moved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the lieutenant-governor praying that additional polling places may be established at the following places in Kootenay district, viz., Farwell, Windermere and Kootenay Lake.

Hon. Mr. Robson said it was gratifying to know that the Kootenay of to-day was not the Kootenay of the past, nor either like what the Kootenay of the future would be. (Hear.) While the government was anxious to secure the convenience of polling places it might be well to delay further selection in view of the possible reformation and revision of polling districts.

Mr. Galbraith was satisfied with the explanation.

ASYLUM FOR INSANE.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented the annual report of the asylum for the insane.

WAGON TIRES.

The bill for regulating the width of wagon tires was considered in committee, Mr. Wilson in the chair.

After some slight discussion as to the utility of certain clauses of the bill, the committee reported progress.

MECHANICS' LIEN ACT.

The bill to amend the "Mechanics' Lien Act, 1879," was considered again in committee, Mr. Raybould in the chair.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

LINE FENCES AND WATERCOURSES.

The bill to amend the "British Columbia Line Fences and Water Courses Act, 1876," was considered in committee, Mr. McTavish in the chair.

Mr. Semlin asked if the provisions of the bill would extend to the east of the Cascades. If it did, then it would work harshly.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said if the hon. gentleman could show a single instance where the bill already in force which extended to the east of the Cascades worked harshly, the government would be glad to have an amendment introduced to offset it. The amendment now proposed would not affect irrigation drains, but was merely intended for the draining of swamp lands, and would cause no hardship to any one whatever. The hon. gentleman from Yale was quite astray in reference to the operations of the act.

Mr. Semlin asked what the words in clause 3 meant when it stated that "regard should be taken of the pecuniary circumstances of the persons between whom they arbitrate."

Mr. Drake said that the words were in the original act, and there had been no complaints as to awards made.

The bill was reported complete with amendments, and will be considered on Friday.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION ACT.

Mr. Theo. Davie moved the second reading of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act, and explained that its object was to give an immediate appeal from decisions of a single judge in interlocutory proceedings in suits and in matters of *certiorari*, *habeas corpus*, etc. The appeal provided by the act was to two judges of whom the judge appealed from would not be one. The court of appeal would be called the divisional court and would sit from time to time and at any time as business might require. By limiting the number of judges who might constitute the court to two the necessity would be avoided of the judges from the mainland leaving their districts, except at the stated periods for general appeals to the full bench, four times a year, as there would always be a sufficient number of judges between Victoria and New Westminster to attend to the divisional court business. Mr. Davie went on to explain the necessity for a court of appeal in interlocutory matters and showed that a decision upon an interlocutory point frequently determined the whole question at issue.

Mr. Galbraith said that, if the bill introduced was as the introducer stated, to facilitate justice, he would favor it. He was glad that it would not interfere with administration of justice on the mainland. He thought it a mistake on the part of the Dominion government in taking Judge Gray to act as a Chinese commissioner, for there were many non-professional men who could have filled the duties required. It had deprived the mainland of a judge for the past six months, and had greatly interfered with the administration of justice. Here mainland members were asking for extra judges, and it seemed unfair that a judge should be allowed to be absent for so great a length of time to the neglect of judicial business. He hoped the government would represent the case to the Dominion authorities, so that matters might be remedied.

Mr. Semlin also thought that the absence of a judge at the present time was an injustice to the interior, and trusted that the matter would be remedied.

Hon. Mr. Davie said there would never be a satisfactory state of things on the mainland until there was a county court judge system. Judges from the mainland had to come to Victoria on appellate business and, of course, assize business on the mainland had to be neglected. He thought the present bill was somewhat of an experiment; still he thought it a commendable one, and would give it his hearty support.

The house went into committee, Mr. Duck in the chair.

Mr. Galbraith said that he thought that we were a most unfortunate province in reference to judicial matters. They had left these changes last session under the impression that they had settled matters in reference to the holding of the courts. He again would refer to the unfortunate circumstance of the absent judge, and would enter his protest against it in the only way that he could, on the floor of the house. He had no objection whatever to the judge taking a pleasant excursion to Ottawa, but the country was the sufferer, and he thought that matters should be changed so as to allow the administration of justice in this country not to suffer from neglect. (Hear, hear.) Who was the party to was responsible for this state of things?

Hon. Mr. Davie said in explanation that this house had no right to regulate the movements of judges; the only power they had was to set the times and places for their sittings. He agreed with the hon. member for Kootenay in his remarks about the absence of a judge and thought the Dominion government had no right to deprive them of his services when they were so much needed. (Hear, hear.)

After passing a number of clauses the committee reported progress and will sit again Monday.

CHINESE EVIDENCE.

The house went into committee on Mr. Raybould's resolution that an act be passed to exclude Chinese evidence from convicting a white man. After considerable discussion in which the majority of members expressed their views as to the utter unreliability of Chinese evidence, and that no jury would convict a man on such evidence exclusively; and also that it would be unwise to prohibit its admission as evidence while admitting its unreliability, the committee rose.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. McTavish said that he was reported in *The Colonist* as having changed his mind in reference to woman suffrage since last session. He had not changed his mind, and would vote against such a measure if it was again introduced.

House adjourned at 4:50.

THURSDAY, Feb. 19.

The speaker took the chair at two o'clock.

Prayers were said by the Rev. Mr. Barss.

PETITION.

Mr. Orr presented a petition on behalf of the New Westminster Telephone Company, praying for power to extend their lines.

HASTING'S SAW MILL.

Mr. Semlin moved, seconded by Mr. McLeese, That an order of this house be granted for all copies of correspondence that may have taken place between the government and any manager of the Hastings Sawmill Co., at any time in reference to that mill not being kept in steady and constant work. Also a copy of the prospectus annexed to the original lease.

The mover said that there was a feeling outside that the lease was faulty, and that the lessees had not acted up to their agreement. The return asked would set at rest any doubts.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said that he had no knowledge of any prospectus being attached to the original lease, though he had often held the document in his hand. He had no objection to the return asked for being acceded to, but of course the house that it should be done. The matter had been deferred from day to day and week to week, and now, feeling that it was in the interest of the country that the matter be at once considered, he had brought it before them. They had no assurance that the report would come in on any definite date; but he had no fear that any report of the committee would affect the resolution. If it was understood that the committee report to-morrow, he would have no objection to the delay of one day.

Mr. Allen said that if the members of the government who had promised to vote against the government on their resolution, did not stick to their word then they were not men but pups! (Sensation.)

Mr. Speaker—Order, order. I must call the hon. gentleman to order and ask him to retract those words.

Mr. Allen—I will. They will not be gentlemen but men. (Laughter.) With reference to this resolution I think—

Mr. Speaker—I must call the gentleman to order. There is no question before the house but that of privilege. I must ask him to sit down.

Mr. Allen said he would speak on another question. If the resolution now before the house was submitted, the government would not be sustained, but would be badly defeated, and he would be one to defeat them. (Derisive laughter.)

Mr. Galbraith asked if the matter was deferred for discussion to-morrow would the final agreement also be submitted. They wanted to deal with the whole matter.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said that there would be no cast-iron agreement submitted, and the changes, with the exception of the clause excluding Chinese, were trivial. If any members could suggest improvements in the wording of the agreement they could easily be added.

On the understanding that the report be brought in to-morrow the debate on Hon. Mr. Smithe's resolution was adjourned.

PAYMENT OF WORKMEN.

The house went into committee on the bill to provide for the payment of builders and workmen, Mr. Cunningham in the chair.

After considerable discussion on some of the clauses,

Mr. Helgesen said that if he had had time to consider the question he probably could have suggested some plain, practical way out of the difficulty, but his time had been so taken up on the squatters' committee that he had not time nor did he feel able to look into the question.

Mr. Theo. Davie said that he had often listened to plain practical truths from the lips of the member from Esquimalt, and he had not a doubt that if he had given time to it, he could have suggested some practical ideas. But the benches were almost empty of members while this important bill was being discussed, every member being taken up in discussing the all-absorbing topic of the resolution before the house, and the sooner that matter was settled so soon would business be transacted intelligently. He trusted that the resolution would be settled very quickly. It was no use pushing other business until it was, and therefore he would move that the committee rise and report progress.

The committee will meet again Friday.

House adjourned at 4 o'clock.

Nanaimo Police Court.

TUESDAY, Feb. 17.

Richard Drew and Albion Tranfield were charged with using threatening language to H. S. Booth, constable and sheriff.

The prosecutor stated that abusive language was used.

In the case of the charge against Tranfield witnesses denied that Tranfield used threatening language, but stated that Booth at the time of serving the summons was in a state of intoxication.

In both cases the charges were dismissed.

Constable Booth also preferred a charge of gambling against the proprietor of one of the city hotels, but with the consent of the bench, was allowed to withdraw the information.—*Free Press.*

RUM'S DOING.—A. M. R. Gordon, formerly connected with the press of Winnipeg and Victoria, and later editor of the Seattle Herald, has been committed to the asylum for the insane in California. He is a victim of drink.

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ENTERED

Feb. 13—Str Geo. E. Starr, Pt Townsend
Str Otter, Burrard Inlet
Feb. 14—Str Princess Louise, New W
Str Enterprise, Nanaimo
Str Amelia, Nanaimo
Str North Pacific, Pt Townsend
Str Eliza Anderson, Pt Townsend
Feb. 16—Str G Starr, Pt Townsend
Feb. 17—Str North Pacific, Pt Townsend
btr Eliza Anderson, Seattle
Str Enterprise, Nanaimo
Str Teaser, Nanaimo
Feb. 19—Str Geo. E. Starr, Pt Townsend
Str Otter, Burrard Inlet
Stp Favorite, Cowichan
Feb. 19—Str Princess Louise, New Westminster
Str North Pacific, Port Townsend.
Str Eliza Anderson, Pt Townsend
Str Teaser, New Westminster
Str Enterprise, Nanaimo
Str Hope, Nanaimo

CLEARED.

Feb. 13—Str Geo. E. Starr, Pt Townsend
Str Otter, Nanaimo
Feb. 14—Str North Pacific, Pt Townsend
Str Enterprise, Nanaimo
Str Amelia, Nanaimo
Str Princess Louise, New Westminst
Str Eliza Anderson, Pt Townsend
Feb. 16—Str Geo. E. Starr, Pt Townsend
Feb. 17—Str North Pacific, Pt Townsend
Str Eliza Anderson, Seattle
Str Enterprise, Nanaimo
Str Willie May, Pt Townsend
Feb. 18—Str Otter, Burrard Inlet
Sch Favorite, Cowichan
Str Geo. E Starr, Pt Townsend
Feb. 19—Str North Pacific, Pt Townsend
Str Eliza Anderson, Pt Townsend
Str Teaser, New Westminster
Str Princess Louise, New Westminster
Str Enterprise, Nanaimo
Str Hope, Nanaimo
Sch Kate, West Coast

DEATHS.