Discussing The Speech

Debate on the Address Continued in the Provincial Legislature.

Hon. W. C. Wells Delivers a Forcible and Telling Speech.

WEDNESDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Yesterday was uneventful in the legislature. The continuation of the debate on the address took up the whole afternoon, and it will be continued to-day. The feature of yesterday's debate was the speech of Hon. W. C. Wells, chief commissioner of lands and works, who delivered a brief, meaty address, in which he rapidly reviewed the administration of his department since his accession to office; answered the charges made against him in a frank, convincing and manly way that might easily disarm his detractors, and briefly outlined his plans for the future. His remarks were listened to with attention, and were frequently interrupted with loud applause from both sides of the house.

Three of the leading lights of the opposition were absent—Messrs. Martin, Brown and Houston—a fact which gave Mr. McPhillips an opportunity to upbraid them for inconsistency in accusing the government of a desire to delay business on the opening day of the session.

The debate on the address will probably be brought to a conclusion to-day.

The house met at 2 o'clock p.m. After prayers by Rev. W. D. Barber, the following petitions were presented.

By Mr. Ellison, from J. H. Senkler and others, for a private bill to incorporate the Midway and Vernon Railway Company.

By Mr. Hunter, from Jas. Dunsmuir and others, for a private bill to incorporate the Comox and Cape Scott Railway Company.

By Mr. Helmcken, from E. V. Bodwell and others, for a private bill to incorporate the Victoria Terminal Railway Company.

By Mr. Helmcken, from the corporation of the city of Victoria, for a private bill to validate the Victoria Terminal Railway By-Law, No. 326, and to authorize the leasing of certain city property.

By Mr. Helmcken, from The Arrowhead and Kootenay Railway Company, for a private bill to amend their Corporate Act.

By Mr. McPhillips, from Stephen Henderson and others, for a private bill to incorporate the Granby Consolidated Smelting and Mining Company.

The following petition was received:

From Robert Irving and others, for a private bill to incorporate the Crawford Bay Railway Company.

The following returns were presented by the Hon. Mr. Prentice:

Return under sub-section 3 of section 2 of chapter 157 of the Revised Statutes (Probate Recognition).

Return under section 61 of the Small Debts Act," chapter 55, R. S. B. C.

DEBATE ON THE SPEECH.

Mr. Clifford, (Cassiar, in resuming the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, challenged the statement of the member for North Nanaimo, that the government had discharged public officials for no other reason than that they were Liberals. With regard to one case mentioned, that of the mining recorder for Atlin, he desired to explain that he was responsible for that officer's dismissal. When he visited Atlin last year, several miners complained to him of the incivility and insolence of the mining recorder. It was also alleged that Mr. Bickle was taking advantage of his position to acquire mining claims. He considered the man was not a fit person for mining recorder, and recommended his dismissal. He was well aware that Mr. Bickle was an offensive partizan, a strong Grit, but it was his unfitness for office, and not his political leanings that led the speaker to ask for his dismissal. If any blame lay for the dismissal he was willing to shoulder it, the government had only acted upon his strong recommendation. Mr. Bickle afterwards asked him to recommend him for another government position in Porcupine district, and threatened if he did not support his application, he would oppose him in every public way, and would get Mr. McInnes to "roast" him in the house. He considered a man who would descend to such methods was not fit to occupy an office of trust.

Mr. Clifford paid a high tribute to the mover and seconder of the address, and spoke feelingly of the universal regret manifested by every British subject on the death of the Queen. He praised the brave Canadian volunteers who fought the battles of the Empire in Africa, and was pleased to note that the government intended to recognize their services by grants of land.

Touching on the paper pulp industry, Mr. Clifford remarked that the facilities for that industry in Cassiar were unsurpassed. While the mountains were destined to become the treasure houses of the world, the valleys were unequalled for their fertility, and might be utilized for agriculture and fruit growing, if access was afforded by a railway. Along the coast the fishing industry, still in its infancy, has assumed important proportions, and promises to become in time the centre of the salmon canning industry. Along the coast are immense areas of spruce of a superior character, just the material required for pulp. The mining industry on the Skeena and in other parts, is progressing satisfactorily, but cannot be expected to reach large proportions until it is given railway communication. He was, therefore, pleased to note that the government had decided to push on an all-Canadian railway to the northern boundary of the province. There should be no hesitation in building that road, for the latent resources of the country were such that in a very few years one railway will be found quite insufficient to accommodate the trade of the district. He was going to ask for a charter for a railway from Dyea to Bennett, for which he was not asking a cent of money or an acre of land. Mr. Clifford complimented Mr. W. H. Ellis for his efficient work in connection with the recent anti-Oriental Immigration Act.

He would like to ask the member for North Nanaimo for a definition of the term "Turnerism," which he was so fond of casting across the house. "In preference to 'Martinism' and 'McInnesism,'" said Mr. Clifford, "give me 'Turnerism' every time." He concluded by complimenting Mr. Turner on the services he had always so ably rendered the province. (Applause.)

Mr. Clifford, in the course of his very interesting speech, gave a mass of valuable information regarding the great natural resources of Cassiar. The fisheries alone, apart from the mining, lumbering and agricultural opportunities, were sufficient to support a large population, and supply half the continent with salmon, herring and halibut. He believed Cassiar would one day be the most important and wealthiest district of British Columbia.

Mr. McPhillips, Victoria, after alluding in fitting terms to the demise of the Queen and complimenting the mover and seconder of the address, criticized the leader of the opposition for deserting his post after objecting to the adjournment of the house from Thursday to Monday. He alluded to the seeming carelessness of his lieutenants, the hon. members for New Westminster and Rossland, in neglecting their duties. The absence of these gentlemen from the house and the declaration of Mr. Martin in the Vancouver World went to indicate that the opposition had arrived at the conclusion that they had no further business in the legislature. He paid a high tribute to Mr. Turner's sterling qualities as a citizen and a public man, and scored the opposition for their unwarranted attacks upon a man who was held in universal respect and esteem by all who knew him.

He said he was elected to the legislature with the understanding that he would support a policy looking to the government ownership of railways, a policy of advancement towards that most desirable end, as soon as the circumstances of the province would warrant it. Government ownership in New Zealand had not been a success. Manitoba had shown by its recent arrangement with the Canadian Northern that it was not prepared to assume the responsibility of government ownership.

The member for North Nanaimo had announced that he intended to again introduce certain labor legislation during the present session. Unfortunately the legislation which he proposed to the house was ultra vires of the house, and, therefore a waste of time, resulting in nothing but a little notoriety outside of the house.

He defended the government from the charge of partizanship. Appointments had been made with a view to efficiency regardless of party. The opposition had no right to pass as a Liberal opposition; they do not represent the Liberal party, and it was a breach of public confidence on their part to attempt to divide the present house on party lines.

He felt satisfied that when the government brought down the measures outlined in the Speech from the Throne, that there would not be a member in the house who would be in a position to conscientiously oppose them, and he was confident that those measures would be wisely framed in the best interests of the province. (Applause.)

Mr. Neill, Alberni, regretted that some members of the government had not taken occasion to explain in more detail the measures outlined in the Speech from the Throne. He was heartily in accord with the intention of the government to recognize the services of the South African soldiers, but he thought that as many of them were not farmers, nor willing to adopt an agricultural life, the government might, instead of gifts of land, give those who desired it, a sum of $100 in cash.

A strong feeling had arisen in the province over the introduction of Chinese and Japanese in metalliferous mines. Precautions had been taken to protect coal miners from the dangers arising from the employment of ignorant Asiatics, and the same measures should be taken to guard all classes of miners.

He could not agree with the member for New Westminster in accusing the government of maladministration in the department of public works; his experience was just the contrary. The works had been carried on more satisfactorily under this government than under the two previous ones. He thought the system of exacting a cash deposit with tenders for public works, which in many cases was a hardship, should be changed. It ought to be sufficient to insist upon adequate bonds for the due performance of the work. The system of road work might also be altered with advantage by changing the time to the spring and early summer. He would also suggest an alteration in the royalty imposed on timber. The same rate should not apply to rough lumber as to the finer qualities.

It would be welcome news to his constituents to learn that the government was taking steps to secure a reduction of freight rates. The rates existing at present to West Coast points were practically prohibitive.

He did not agree with the extreme statements regarding New Zealand railways, which had emanated from both sides of the house. He had lived in New Zealand and could assure the house that there were two sides to the question. Railways in New Zealand had been made a medium for political jobbery, and useless roads were built all over the country to suit the ends of members of the legislature. The colony was plunged into hopeless debt, and suffered severely, not from government ownership of railways, but from the abuse of that policy.

Alberni is greatly interested in the proposed railway to the north end of the island. The want of such a road is felt keenly by the miners, farmers and lumbermen, and will be regarded by all as the greatest boon the government could confer upon the district. He had been greatly impressed with the remarks of the member for East Yale on the subject of smelters. It was an important question in Alberni district, and a smelter on the Alberni canal was much desired. There was talk of establishing one there by private parties, but he hoped the government would be able to offer inducements to smelters and refineries, or even go as far as building them, as had been suggested by Mr. Green. (Applause.)

Mr. Hall (Victoria) resented the charges made against the government of partizanship in the appointment and dismissal of officials. As a Liberal, he could assure the house that the Minister of Finance had always acted in a spirit of fairness. He had never questioned a man's political creed when making an appointment, and if Turnerism represents that policy of fair play and justice to all, he was prepared to adhere to Turnerism to the end of the chapter. (Applause.)

He would strongly oppose the employment of Chinese in metalliferous mines, or in any other of the great industries of the country where intelligence and skill were required; their work should be confined to those manual offices for which nature had fitted them. (Applause.)

Mr. Stables (Cassiar) heartily congratulated the mover of the address, and particularly on his affecting references to the Queen. He in his boyhood had had the honor and privilege of knowing Her Majesty, not only as a queen, but as the kind-hearted, motherly friend and neighbor of her loving subjects in the Highlands of Scotland, than whom no section of her people in all the broad Empire would feel her loss more keenly. (Applause).

He congratulated the government on the proposed reduction of freight rates. Railways and fair rates of freight have been two factors in the prosperity of the province lacking in the past, but he hoped that the day was rapidly approaching when they would be supplied to every district. He considered that the railway to the northern boundary of the province was the most important of the railways proposed. He would like to have had more details of the proposal, and would await the government's announcement with interest. Another part of the district of Cassiar which needed a railway was Porcupine. He hoped no opposition would be given to the charter which would be asked for during the session.

He trusted that the proposed amendments to the Mining Act would meet the necessities of those whom they were intended to relieve. He heartily supported the suggestion of the member for Kaslo respecting government aid to smelters, and he would suggest that the government might profitably furnish the use of diamond drills to prospectors. Mr. Stables drew attention to the importance of technical education in mining, and hoped the government would consider means to establish a school of mining. He would like to see a systematic exploration of the province undertaken by experts, under government control and supervision. (Applause).

Mr. A. W. Smith (Lillooet) added his praise to the mover and seconder of the address. The people of Lillooet were particularly interested in the question of transportation. They would like to have railways, but under present circumstances they would be satisfied with trails and wagon roads. The advent of the C. P. R. had brought freight rates down from 6 to 2½ cents, and he was a strong advocate of railways. He did not object to the Coast-Kootenay railway, but the district traversed was along a navigable river, while in the interior the people had not even trails to the mines. The government should, therefore, make an effort to deal fairly with Lillooet, which was being checked for want of transportation facilities.

An amendment to the mining laws with respect to hydraulic leases would be very desirable. The leasing system in its present form is not satisfactory to capitalists, and should be so amended as to give them crown grants of their ground under certain conditions. He urged the government to give the subject earnest consideration.

Mr. Smith ridiculed the charge that the government had shown partizanship in making appointments, and congratulated the executive on its policy as outlined in the Speech from the Throne. (Applause).

Mr. Hunter (Cariboo) in complimenting the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, said that on two occasions he had had the honor of moving the address in reply, and each time he had been assured by the Hon. the Finance Minister that his speech was the finest ever heard within the walls of the legislature. He believed the honorable gentleman (laughter), and he now had the opportunity of judging of the excellence of his efforts when he heard that the speech of the member for West Yale was equal to anything which had preceded it. (Laughter).

He considered the Kitimaat & Yukon railway was so conspicuously in the interests of the whole Dominion that the Dominion government should give it substantial aid. He considered that the railway policy upon which Manitoba was entering as the maddest one ever entertained by a province, and he would regret to see British Columbia entertaining such a scheme. (Applause).

Hon. Mr. Wells, on rising to address the house, was greeted with a round of applause. He intimated his unwillingness to prolong the debate, were it not that he felt it imperative to refute the charges of honorable members opposite which somewhat reflected upon the administration of the department which he had the honor to control. These charges, if they could be considered as such, were of such a general character that it was a very difficult matter to deal with them, and had it not been for the timely rescue of the honorable member for Alberni, he would have been compelled to content himself with, simply, a flat denial of them which might not be satisfactory to the house. (Applause.).

He referred to the lateness in passing the estimates of the last session, owing to which there was a very serious delay in proceeding with the various works over the province, but he ventured to say that at no time in the administration of the department had such an almost incredible amount of work been accomplished within a comparatively short season. (Applause.)

The argument used by the honorable member for Westminster, that a more limited area might be covered with better results was tenable as applied to ordinary conditions, instead of which very extraordinary conditions prevailed. It should be considered that there was a vast system of roads, aggregating some 6,000 miles or more and while in the more accessible districts this theory was practicable, what about the hundreds of people in more obscure districts to whom a half a loaf was infinitely better than no bread. These people must be provided for if only with indifferently maintained roads, for the present, and until the appropriations would warrant better facilities.

The climatic conditions prevailing in some parts of the province, notably the Coast districts, made it difficult to cope with or satisfactorily proceed with the work during the winter season, the result being that it had to be deferred, but in any case, where through inadvertence, any serious delay had been suffered, and to which his attention had been called, prompt action had invariably been taken in response to the complaints that were made. (Applause.) Reference had been made and exception taken to the existing timber regulations, as a barrier to the introduction of increased capital for the prosecution of that industry. Honorable gentlemen had certainly not familiarized themselves with the timber regulations of other provinces, for if they had, a comparison would convince them that the timber regulations here were liberal to an extraordinary degree, giving the utmost encouragement to the lumber industry of British Columbia. It was quite true that he had lately seen fit to rescind a standing order-in-council admitting a rebate on exports to foreign ports and by this conserving the revenue to a considerable extent, but notwithstanding this the timber royalty exacted was not all proportionate with the duty in other provinces. He then dealt with the alienations, comprising a part of the British Columbia Southern subsidy lands, contending that due provision had been made for the lumbering interests contiguous to this railway, and that existing licenses would be renewable upon the same terms as heretofore. This should be highly satisfactory news to parties interested in a renewal of their licenses.

He then dealt with several matters to which his attention had been called by the honorable member for Alberni, including a reduction on different classes of timber, showing conclusively that while the government was disposed to grant some measure of relief, yet the dues now exacted must stand, as only a reasonable contribution to the revenue.

Reference had been made to certain reforms he was carrying out in his department, by which road construction and maintenance would show a marked improvement at the hands of Mr. Killeen, the new provincial road inspector, from whom he predicted most satisfactory results, as a thoroughly practical and experienced man. A good deal of talk was being indulged in as to the political complexion of the new appointees, but as to that, he had not even taken the trouble to ask Mr. Killeen as to what political stripe he belonged; all that he did know was that the new provincial inspector always expressed a devout admiration for Gladstone, and had voted for himself at the last general election, in both of which he evinced a remarkable degree of intelligence. (Applause.)

Reference was then made to the bill he proposed bringing down for the encouragement of the pulp industry. He was very glad to have such a consensus of opinion as to the merits of such a measure, but would defer any further remarks until introducing his bill, which would be within the next few days. He complimented the honorable member for Cassiar in the highest terms upon his speech, and to that part of it particularly referring to the timber resources of his district. Before closing his congratulations were extended to the mover and seconder of the address upon the creditable manner in which they had discharged their respective duties, and hoped they would long continue to grace the legislature with their contributions of eloquence, as well as impart their tact and abilities in dealing with the legislation of the house. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. Eberts moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. McInnes, replying to a question by Mr. Eberts, said the opposition would furnish names of members on that side for the standing committees on Thursday.

The house then adjourned till this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Hon. Mr. Turner, on Friday—That the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the present session be taken into consideration on Friday next.

Mr. Neill, on Friday—That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to urge upon the Dominion government the necessity of immediate steps being taken to deepen the present channel of the Lomas river at its mouth, to permit the steamship service to be continued to the town of Alberni, as petitioned for in November, 1898.

Hon. Mr. Eberts to ask leave to introduce a bill intituled "An act to amend the 'Investment Societies Act.'"

Hon. Mr. Turner to ask leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act respecting the Town of Wellington."

Hon. Mr. Turner to ask leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Assessment Act.'"

Mr. McInnes to ask leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act relating to Labor."

Mr. Helmcken to ask leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act to amend the Law of Inheritance and Distribution."

Hon. Mr. Eberts, to ask leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Extra-Provincial Investment and Loan Societies' Act, 1900.'"

Hon. Mr. Eberts to ask leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act respecting certain Railway Land Grants."

SESSIONAL NOTES.

The press gallery is not the most desirable place in the house from which to follow the proceedings. The clerk of the house, who sits immediately beneath the gallery, is inaudible to the reporters, and unless a member speaks in full voice, many of his remarks are lost.

Much speculation is heard in the lobbies as to the government's railway policy. Some wild guesses are being made, but as the members of the executive and those in their confidence maintain strict silence when the subject is mentioned to them none of the current rumors are deemed worthy of discussion or mention.

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THREE SPECIAL

Diamond Dye Blacks

Black is the most useful of all colors, and is more worn to-day than ever before. Any color that is now faded and rusty can be dyed over a rich and deep black.

The three Blacks—Diamond Dye Fast Black for all Wool, Diamond Dye Fast Black for Cotton and Mixed Goods, and Diamond Dye Fast Black for Silk and Feathers—are all guaranteed not to fade or wash out. Diamond Dye Blacks maintain their full, rich shades till the goods are worn out. These wonderful Black dyes are simple and easy to use, and no experience is needed to do good work with them; a child who can read the directions can dye successfully with Diamond Dyes.

When you decide to do your dyeing work at home, be sure and buy the Diamond Dyes. Beware of the cheap and adulterated dyes sold by some dealers for the sake of the extra profit; their use means ruin of your materials and garments.

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CURE SICK HEADACHE.

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PAINE'S CELERY COMPOUND.

The Only Banisher of Disease and True Life-Giver For Broken Down and Afflicted Women.

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Thankful and grateful women throughout Canada take pleasure in recommending Paine's Celery Compound to their afflicted sisters. The marvellous medicine promptly gives health and strength that all wearied, nervous, despondent and broken-down women so much need.

Jessie M. Ross, Quyon, Que., writes as follows:

"It affords me much pleasure to testify to the great good that Paine's Celery Compound has done for me. I was completely run down in health and a victim of female weakness, and after using three bottles of the great Compound I was completely cured. It is the best blood purifier I know of, and I recommend it to all who suffer as I did."

Dillon And The Boers

Irish Member Makes Attack on Conduct of Affairs in Africa.

His Wild Charges Do Not Carry Weight With the House.

London, Feb. 26.—"Not since the days of the Romans," said Mr. John Dillon (Irish Nationalist), in the House of Commons to-day, on the resumption of the debate on the address in reply to the King's Speech, at the opening of parliament, "had an army made a habit of capturing women and children, as the British soldiers in South Africa were doing."

"This," Mr. Dillon added, "was cruel and cowardly, to put women on half rations because their husbands had not surrendered as was the undenied practice in the reconcentrado camps, and was worthy of the worst brigands of Sicily and Greece. This plan of starving women and children had been adopted by the war secretary, Mr. Brodrick."

Mr. Dillon then went over the record of the war, referring to the house burnings, etc., averring that in treachery and cruelty, the balance was against the British. He congratulated the Boers on having a different record.

Mr. Brodrick replied that the British conduct was humane. It was not true that the country had been devastated deliberately, and by wholesale. Farm houses had been burned for cause, and portions of the country had been devastated because it had been fought over five or six times. In some cases the Boers deserted their houses and the Kaffirs burned them. The secretary, during his remarks, re-affirmed that the government had not the slightest intention of giving way in the question of independence.

Mr. Dillon's amendment, censuring the government, was rejected by 243 to 91 votes. The reply to the King's Speech was adopted by 297 to 78 votes.

THE DUKE OF CORNWALL'S VISIT

Correspondence Now Going On to Extend It to This Province.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 26.—Col. Prior today called attention to the proposed visit to the Colonies of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York and expressed great regret that a trip across Canada was not included. He thought their Royal Highnesses should cross the Pacific ocean and then travel over the Canadian Pacific railway from Vancouver to Halifax. It would be a great advantage to the Dominion to have them visit every province. He hoped the government would be able to secure a change of route as suggested.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said correspondence was now going on between Ottawa and London upon this very subject, but it was confidential. He altogether agreed with Col. Prior that it would be most unfortunate it their Royal Highnesses had not the opportunity of visiting every province in the Dominion next summer. It would be most convenient in his view if their Royal Highnesses when returning from Australia would come by way of the Pacific instead of the Atlantic, visiting British Columbia, Manitoba and coming on to Halifax. That was the view which the House could assume had been reported to their Royal Highnesses. More than this he could not say.

Mr. Costigan gave notice that on Friday he would offer a motion to the effect that the declaration now required of the King at coronation is offensive to the dearest convictions of all Roman Catholics and the act of settlement of 1689 should be amended by abolishing said declaration.

The Governor-General is notified that the Duke of Cornwall and York would visit Canada in September.

Three British Columbia private bills were introduced to-day; one respecting the Nakusp and Slocan railway, by Col. Prior; another respecting the Columbia and Western, by Mr. Morrison and a third respecting the Columbia Southern railway by Col. Prior.

From Woman to Woman.

Throughout Canada—throughout the world—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have brought health and happiness to thousands of women, who for weeks, months, years, had suffered in silence. But you must get the genuine, with the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," on every package. If your dealer does not keep these pills send direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and they will be sent post paid at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for $2.50.

Provincial AUCTION SALE OF Pure Bred Cattle.

The Dairymens' Association of B. C. will offer for sale at New Westminster, on Friday, 15th March, at 1:30 p. m., the following stock imported from Ontario.

There is no reserve price on the stock.

CATTLE.

Shorthorns—8 Bulls from 8 to 12 months old; 17 two year old heifers, mostly in calf.

Ayrshires—2 choice cows in calf.

SHEEP.

Southdowns, Oxfords and Shropshires, 2 rams and 3 ewes of each breed.

PIGS.

Berkshires—8 young boars; 8 young sows in pig.

Tamworth—1 boar (young), 1 sow (young).

POULTRY—150 HEAD.

Principally White and Laced Wyandottes, Barred and White Plymouth Rocks Light Brahmas.

Catalogues will be mailed.

Terms—Cash or 25 per cent. cash; remainder on endorsed note satisfactory to a Bank.

The annual meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday., 14th March. Interesting addresses by F. W. Hodson, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner and H. L. Blanchard, of Hadlock, Wash.

Single fare on E. & N. R. R. and C. P. N. Co., and half rate on stock purchased.

G. H. HADWEN, Secy.-Treas.

Duncan's Station.

WANTED—To lease from April 1st, cottage in good condition, Oak Bay or Cedar Hill districts preferred, large garden or land adjoining. Address, Cottage, this office. m1