FRESH MEAT CONTRACT

Victoria Man Does Substantial Business with White Pass Railway Company.

Americans in Atlin Aghast at Cancellation of Their Rights as Free Miners.

Mr. N. P. Shaw, of this city, who has been at Skagway for a few weeks, returned on the Dirigo yesterday morning, the steamer making a special call at Victoria to enable him to land. Mr. Shaw went north with the view of contracting for the supply of fresh meat to the White Pass & Yukon railway, and was entirely successful, having secured the contract for a year. This is the largest single contract for supplies that the company will make, and there will be general satisfaction in knowing that it has been given to Victoria people. Shipments will be made immediately. Mr. Shaw was seen by a Colonist reporter and asked what chance he thought British Columbia people would have in furnishing supplies to the railway company. In reply he said:

"The fact that they gave me and my associates the fresh meat contract shows that, other things being equal, British Columbians can get the trade. But I have it from Mr. Hawkins, the general manager, that he wants to buy every dollar's worth of supplies in British Columbia that will be used in construction beyond the summit."

"Will the demand be large?"

"There are about 1,500 men at work now, and these will need a good deal of provisions and other merchandise, and when spring opens the number is likely to be more than doubled."

"Do you know what the company's plans are?"

"Only in a general way. They will certainly build to Bennett this year, and they contemplate pushing the line 160 miles further to Fort Selkirk, and building a branch to Atlin."

"Do you think they will alter their plans?"

"I have no reason to suppose they will, but the passage of the alien exclusion act is not calculated to encourage them. The road is being built with English capital, and while it is true that the exclusion act does not apply to the Klondike, it will not be the easiest thing in the world to make the British public understand that. I am of course only giving my views as to the effect of the law, but I think they are reasonable."

"What do the people in Skagway and that neighborhood think of the exclusion bill?"

"Naturally they are opposed to it. I was in favor of keeping our placers for British subjects as a general proposition, but after talking with hundreds of miners, business men and others, I am convinced it is a mistake. There is one thing that I do not think there can be any question about, and it is this: There are hundreds of American citizens up there who took out free miners' certificates in the belief that they were good for year. They spent a lot of money in outfitting and going North. They have done a good deal of prospecting and in many cases made discoveries. Now they find that if they did not get claims recorded before the passage of the act, they have had all their trouble and expense for nothing. I do not think any man can say this is fair. To me it looks like a great outrage, and a very mean way to treat strangers who have come into the country relying upon British fair play. It is so real a grievance that the American miners are sure to lay their case before their government, and we may find ourselves met by some troublesome restrictions at Skagway, by way of retaliation."

"Do you think the Atlin miners would buy in this province?"

"So far as I could judge they all were willing to buy in British Columbia. It was only a question of price with them, and I don't suppose that a Canadians would be willing to pay more here than they could get the same goods for elsewhere. I found that it was becoming generally known that prices were as low in British Columbia, and the duty of course is a great thing in our favor; but from what I learned it will be necessary for our merchants to do business on the principle of 'quick returns and small profits,' if they expect to control the Northern trade. If they do this, they can do the biggest part of the business. Of course after a very short time, the trade of the country will be supplied by wholesale houses on the ground, or by retailers buying their goods here or in Vancouver. The day of individual outfitting will not last much longer."

"What about the railway?"

"I do not profess to know anything about railway building, but as far as I can judge, and I have been over every transcontinental line many times, the railway as far as built, is a wonderful piece of work. It reflects the greatest credit upon all concerned in its construction. Speaking of the people at the head of the enterprise, I can tell the Victoria business men that they will look far and not find a better lot to have dealings with. The building of this railway means thousands of dollars to British Columbia merchants, farmers and cattle men."

WRETCHED MAIL SERVICE.

Chorus of Complaints from British Columbia Points While Mr. Mulock Trifles With New Stamps.

Notwithstanding the visit of Inspector McLeod and the promise of better service in the future, the people of Boundary Creek are still enjoying some delightfully interesting irregularities in connection with the delivery and conveyance of Her Majesty's mail. A business letter sent from this office to Cascade City on December 19 reached its destination on January 14, or, as our correspondent aptly puts it, the letter took 26 days to make a distance of 37 miles. Fortunately it was adorned with a three-cent stamp. It would be really too bad if the new two-cent stamp with the high sounding "We hold a vaster empire than has been," should find a resting place on a letter that was carried less than one and a half miles per day. In the days of the most modest empire and the ordinary three-cent stamp, a faster service was occasionally provided. The Rossland mail has also been very irregular for several weeks, but this is perhaps caused by the difficulty in crossing the Columbia river on account of ice. Altogether mail to and from the Boundary Creek country is handled in a very unsatisfactory manner, and it should be part of the duties of the inspector to attend to the matter. Every week petitions and complaints are being sent in to the department and no attention is being paid to them. It is of the highest importance that the letter service at least should be regular.—Boundary Creek Times.

It is hard to understand the workings of government. That part of our federal dealing with the prompt and safe delivery of mail has not kept up to the growing time of the Kootenays. And it is not mail from the C. N. P. towns alone that comes irregularly. Mail matter from the East, posted at one time, will arrive in various lots with a day's interval between them. On several occasions the Lake mail has become mixed, New Denver mail coming here, ours to New Denver, much to the annoyance of business men in both towns. Someone, somewhere is guilty at times of gross negligence. Cannot this be remedied?—Silverton Silvertonian.

Seldom a week passes but one or more newspapers of the district have a vigorous and righteous protest against the very unsatisfactory condition of the postal service. It seems impossible to make the authorities understand the rapid settlement and growth of this section. Reforms and improvements of the service are never made until several months after it has been discovered that they are necessary. The conduct of the officials is wholly inexcusable, and the only reasonable conclusion left is that they are hopelessly incompetent. We attribute the outrageous state of affairs to the vicious custom of appointing men to office for political rather than any other reasons, a custom which has become painfully common in the last few years. The Dominion should have as servants the ablest and most conscientious men available, but of late the public service, in more than one department, has been filled up with political hangers-on, who would be incapable of earning a decent livelihood at any other occupation. There must be an end to this incompetency; the people will not tolerate it.—Rossland Miner.

Now that there is no railway deal on in connection with the Stikine river, the Dominion ministers seems to have forgotten all the good things they said about the excellence of that route. The people of Glenora complain that they have had no communication with the outside world since the 27th of September last, though there are 1,200 people in the neighborhood, expecting mail by the Stikine river, many of them brought there by the representations of the government. Like a great many other people in the West they have lost faith in Mr. Sifton.—Montreal Gazette.

MUSIC AND COMEDY.

"Black Patti" and Her Troubadors To-Night—"What Happened to Jones."

Vaudeville, comedy, burlesque and opera interpreted by 30 of the best artists ever organized for this style of entertainments will be the stage offering of "Black Patti's Troubadours" at the Victoria Theatre to-night. The comedy is practically a double one, with "Black Patti" as the star of the operatic and singing forces and Ernest Hogan, the greatest of all ebony comedians as the leader of the fun-makers. "At Jolly Coney Island" is the title of the opening skit, which introduces the company on the "Bowery" of this famous resort, a scene which has been faithfully reproduced on canvass by Harley Merry and sons, and which has been painted from sketches taken on the spot. Here is where the fun begins and where the audience is led to view all the humorous characteristics of this resort by the sea. The skit, to use a theatrical term, is full of "hot stuff," song, story and dance, in which the entire company invest all the enthusiasm characteristic of their race, reigns supreme for forty minutes. Incidental to the scenes, various character types are introduced, such as the "Bathing Girl," the "New Bicycle Woman," the "Coon Singer" and "Buck Dancer," the "Bunco Steerer," the "Con Men with glad Hand," and the "Couchee Girl" from the Midway and many other peculiar features with Coney Island's Bowery is noted for. Following the swit comes the great vaudeville olio in which all the clever specialty performers contribute their star acts. Then comes the greatest feature of the performance which is called the operatic kaleidoscope in which the singing forces of this company, led by Black Patti, present reminiscences of "Faust," "Carman," "Trovatore," "Grand Duchess," "Tar and Tartar," and "Daughter of the Regiment," "Bohemian Girl," "Maritana," "Rigoletto," and "Lucia." It is said that the solo and ensemble singing of Black Patti and her associates in the operatic review is incomparably grand. Such a blending of voices in inspiring operatic selections has rarely been equalled by the great Italian opera companies. It is in this work where the company is absolutely supreme, and which affords a music feast which never falls of pleasing everybody. The public approval of this portion of the entertainment ran at times take a sensational form for it is not uncommon for audiences to reward Black Patti's song with cheers as hearty and vociferous as any accorded to the eloquence of a Bryan or a Cochran.

Among the very good things provided for the theatre-goers of this city, will be the engagement of the well-known and popular young comedian, Harry Corson Clarke, at the Victoria Theatre next Tuesday evening, when he will present the latest New York and London farcial success, "What Happened to Jones," which at his hands, has had a most complete presentation and has been greeted by the most enthusiastic of audiences in every city which he has visited. It is seldom that a young actor jumps immediately in to extreme popularity, and Mr. Clarke is a notable exception to the rule, as he has met with great financial as well as artistic success, on this, his first venture as a star. The great theatre-going public has learned to distinguish from the many, the notable attractions, and is most liberal in its patronage of a really talented performance. One in which every character of the play is in the hands of an artist and in which no detail is slighted. The most popular, too, is the lighter form of amusement for all love to laugh and be merry.

RAILWAY RATES IN PORTO RICO.

A short line is in operation between Yauco and Ponce, a distance of 22 miles, with two stations on the line at Guayanilla and Tallabon. This road has an average annual income of $2,760 per mile, but it should be noted that, because of the high freight rates, $2.25 per ton for a 22 mile haul, or ten cents per ton-mile, a great part of the freight carrying between Yauco and Ponce is performed by ox-carts, in successful competition with the railroad. The freight rates of the ox-carts are not much lower than those of the railway, and the speed about the same. Besides this excessive charge, the railway does not offer the facilities which should obtain in this district, as it does not reach to the harbor of Ponce, where the great bulk of business is done. Bulk must be broken and the goods transferred.—Antonio Mattei Lluveras in The Engineering Magazine for February.

ALLEGED HUMOR.

Mrs. Outertowne—Oh, Harry! our new cook is a star!"

Outertowne (fervently)—If she only proves a fixed one!—Brooklyn Life.

"Who," asked the horny-fisted man, after the rest of the crowd had departed from the grocery, "who is this here John C. Depew that they was talkin' about?"—Indianapolis Journal.

M. de France—You wind up ze clock to make him go?"

English Tutor—Exactly.

M. de France—Zen what you wind up ze heesiness to make him stop?—Jewellers' Weekly.

CURRENT COMMENT

KOOTENAY ON ALIEN ACT.

The legislature with only slight opposition has passed through committee the Placer Mining act, which restricts the privilege of taking out a free miner's certificate under the Placer Mining act to British subjects. It is among the pledges of the government that they will bring in a bill to repeal the clause of the mineral act which requires laboring miners to hold a mining certificate this will apply to subjects and aliens alike. Tliens are thus to be prohibited from going into Cassiar and Cariboo but encouraged to come into Kootenay. The glaring inconsistency of this will after a while attract the attention of statesmen even as muddle headed as J. Fred Hume or Joseph Martin, and it will then be followed up by the exclusion of aliens from quartz mines as well. The international commission is seeking among other things to bring about the repeal of alien labor laws on both sides of the line. British Columbia steps forward with an object lesson as to the futility of any treaty that might be made by the British Empire and exhibits to the United States an illustration of how completely a province can neutralize the value of a concession they may bargain for. In Kootenay we are aching with anxiety for a favorable result as regards the tariff on silver-lead ores, when a minister of mines representing a Kootenay constituency comes forward with a measure which immediately provokes a storm of angry protest from those whom it should have been our first object to conciliate. The state legislature of Washington has rushed off to the President and congress of the United States a memorial on the subject and have accompanied it with a request that a northwest man be appointed to succeed the late Mr. Dingley on the international committee we fear that our chances for free lead have received a serious set back.—Kaslo Kootenaian.

MR. SIFTON'S ONE PLEA.

Sifton's immigration record is to be the test by which he is to be tried. No matter what Yukon steal he may admit; no matter how many million dollars' worth of the people's property he may give away to his political friends; no matter how shockingly he may mismanage affairs in the Yukon region; no matter how many relations he appoints to office; no matter what crookedness he may be guilty of—all these are to be answered with the statement that his immigration policy brings more people to Canada than came in under the regime of his predecessors. It matters not what manner of immigrants they are; they may be the most worthless of the off-scourings of Europe; but so long as they figure up big in the immigration tables everything is all right. To this end a lot of poverty-stricken wretches are being imported to be fed and coddled by the government, until they can do for themselves, and these unfortunates figure in the returns as immigrants. From the slums of London, and from odd corners of Europe, Mr. Sifton's agents are hiring paupers to come to Canada to swell the immigration returns, that his Grit friends may point to the figures with pride whenever a political enemy hints at any of his evil works.—Hamilton Spectator.

SLOCAN NOT SATISFIED.

Captain Hayward, of the steamer International, who has excellent opportunities for ascertaining the drift of public sentiment, is of the opinion that the Alien Exclusion bill, which was recently adopted by the provincial legislature, will have a depressing effect upon the development of the Slocan. While it is well understood that the measure as it passed the legislature deals exclusively with placer mining, there is nevertheless a general feeling of uneasiness on the part of the American mining men that sooner or later similar provisions will be framed to apply to quartz mining. As the result of many conversations with well-known mining men operating in the Slocan who travel on the steamers, Captain Hayward is of the opinion that as a result of the passage of the exclusion bill there will be much less development done in the Slocan this coming summer than there would otherwise have been. As the bulk of this work has been done by Americans in the past, their withdrawal will have a noticeable effect upon the mining industry of the Slocan, more particularly in view of the fact that Canadians or Englishmen will not take the chances which Americans take, and which it is necessary that some one should take in order that the worth of prospects may be determined.—Nelson Tribune.

ANOTHER OBJECTION.

The Alien Placer Mining act, passed within the last few days by our provincial legislature, has called forth a great amount of criticism by the press, not only Canadian but also American papers devoting considerable space to the subject. The sweeping and radical changes that this act makes in our mining laws, were untimely unlooked for, by the mining public. By this one act, British Columbia passes from the most liberal of the most conservative of mining states in the world, in her treatment of the aliens within her borders, following the vocation of placer mining. Her undeniable right to pass a bill of this nature, if so inclined, cannot be questioned. The intention of the bill to reserve the placer mines of the province for British subjects, is laudable and reasonable, but is this not amply accomplished by restricting their location to British subjects? The prohibition placed upon the locator to sell to an alien and the lack of a provision in the bill by which an alien, being the direct heir, can inherit a placer property, is a restriction placed upon the mining industry by no other civilized people.—Silverton Silvertonian.

POLITICS ON THE RAILWAY.

Reports from the Maritime Provinces fail to give the impression that the Liberals have redeemed their pledges in another regard, and taken the Intercolonial out of politics. The fact of the matter seems to be that Mr. Blair is permitting the line to fall back into the old position when it was frankly a party instrument, and came up smiling every budget day for a "hand-out" from the Finance Minister. Western Canada will certainly not be pleased if the promise of better things given us for a few years under the hand of Mr. Haggart is lost. The Intercolonial ought not to be a burden on the country. Those who once contended that it must be, were answered once and for all when the Conservative government succeeded in making it show a surplus. Thus it was demonstrated that it can earn its way; and when Mr. Blair comes up with the old request for a little cash to make his books balance, there is a feeling that something has been wrong in the management of the road, or this humiliating appeal would not be necessary.—Montreal Gazette.

A VICIOUS MEASURE.

The new government of British Columbia does not seem to be very improvement on its predecessor. Indeed it seems likely to turn out a great deal worse. Joe Martin has evidently obtained control, and the result is as might be expected, a reckless and criminal line of conduct. The Montreal Gazette gives the following succinct statement of the latest outrage, which is a sample of many others. * * * This is as bad as anything that has ever occurred in the United States, where contested elections are settled by the majorities in the respective legislatures. It is, in fact, a deliberate violation of the principle of non-interference with the courts. It may be that as Mr. Martin is a professed annexationist, he wishes to begin work by introducing into Canada one of the most vicious of United States legislative practices, a practice that is denounced and deplored by all the better element in the republic.—Halifax Herald.

MR. HUME'S SEAT.

The resignation of Hon. J. Fred. Hume, minister of mines, necessitates the holding of a bye-election in the Nelson district. We shall be very much surprised if there is no contest. Mr. A. S. Farwell, who made such a good run at the last general elections, may be induced to again oppose Mr. Hume, and should he do so, the chances are that he will defeat the honorable minister by a good round majority. But in the event that Mr. Farwell decides not to be a candidate, there is no lack of good opposition timber. Nelson is fortunate in having as citizens not a few men of more than ordinary ability, who would be very useful in the legislative assembly. Particularly is this the case with W. A. Macdonald, Q. C., and S. S. Taylor, Q. C. Either of these gentlemen would make a first rate representative.—Rossland Miner.

VICTORIA'S BUSINESS MEN.

Some people who don't often visit Victoria are of the impression that it is not a good business city. A visit to the Island town will convince anyone of their mistake. It is a lively, bustling town and a very large amount of business is being done. The reason for it being that they have good, lively and thoroughly reliable firms that have been known for many years and who do business on the square—in other words they do not sell one class of goods and deliver another. It is a pleasant place in which to spend a few weeks.—Ashcroft Mining Journal.

PEG-LEG BROWN AGAIN.

His Story of Kidnapping From the State of Washington to Victoria.

Marion Brown, the colored man under arrest and awaiting trial at London for the murder of Policeman Michael Toohey, has made a sworn affidavit to support the charge that he was kidnapped in the State of Washington and brought to Canada. A copy of this document was sent to the State Department at Washington, and a second copy is in the possession of the Attorney-General's Department of Ontario. It was in consequence of the allegations set forth in the affidavit that the United States authorities were led to demand from the Canadian government an explanation of the circumstances of Brown's arrest.

The peg-led prisoner declares in his sworn statement that he was formerly of the town of Lampass, in the State of Washington, and was an American citizen. He denies positively and emphatically that he committed the crime with which he is charged, and asserts that he was not within the boundaries of Canada on June 24th, 1898, when the murder took place. He makes the following statement in regard to his arrest:

"That, on or about the month of September, 1898, I was, and had been for some little time previous thereto, working in and around the town of North Yakima, Washington territory, when one evening while attending a play in the opera house there I was approached by and arrested by one A. L. Dilly, a United States marshal, who, as he told me, at the time of my arrest, with the offence or crime of selling liquor to Indians, and I was forthwith taken by Dilly to the gaol of North Yakima and confined there for about the space of 15 days without ever having been brought before a judge or magistrate or other person for my trial.

"That, after having been confined in the said gaol on the said charge of selling liquor to Indians for about the space of 15 days, and without having been brought before any judge or magistrate for trial, the said Dilly and one Thomas Nichol, a Canadian officer, came to the North Yakima gaol one night about 11 o'clock, as near as I can judge, and called me from my cell dress, as they were going to take me to Seattle that night to have the charge of selling liquor as aforesaid against me disposed of. I got up and dressed as requested, and accompanied the said two officers to Seattle, believing, as I did thoroughly believe, that I was being taken to Seattle for the purpose of having the said alleged liquor charge against me disposed of.

"That, having arrived at Seattle, I was then and there told that I would have to remain there until the boat went out, that they, the officers, were going to take me to Olympia, the capital of the state, as I was told, to have the said charge of selling liquor against me there and then disposed of, and I so consented to go with them to the said town of Olympia, and when I got on the boat at Seattle I was under the firm and honest belief that I was being taken to Olympia, and not to Victoria, British Columbia, in Canadian territory, as it afterwards transpired I was.

"That the said boat which I boarded at Seattle landed me at Victoria, B. C., and it was not until after I set foot on Canadian territory at Victoria that I ever knew or had the least idea where I was being taken to, or what I was charged with, other than the said charge of selling liquor to Indians but the moment I put my foot on Canadian territory I was approached by a Canadian officer there who came up to me and said he arrested me for the crime of murdering one P. C. Michael Toohey at Lonley at London, Ontario, Canada, on the 24th of June 1898 and that was the first time in my life that I ever heard of a murder being committed at London, Canada, on the said date, in which I was charged or even suspected, nothwithstanding all or any allegations to the contrary."

Brown denies emphatically that at the time of his arrest he knew of any charge of murder against him, or that he was aware when apprehended that he was to be taken to Canada.

Thomas Nichol, of London, the detective who brought Brown from the coast, has made a sworn statement in reply to the prisoner, in which he says:

"I accompanied the Mr. Dilly mentioned to the gaol at North Yakima and I say that I did not speak to the said Marion Brown in any manner whatsoever, but the said Dilly said to him "Come Tom, get ready, get your clothes on,' and nothing more was said to the said Brown, and the said Marion Brown thereupon got up and dressed and came away with the said Dilly from the said gaol, and not one word was said by either the said Dilly or myself that we or either of us were or was going to take the said Brown to Seattle that night to have the charge of selling liquor disposed of. It was not said by me or in my presence or hearing by any officer or officers therein mentioned that they were going to take the said Marion Brown to Olympia."

Mr. P. McPhillips, Brown's counsel, declares his intention of pushing the matter to the utmost, and says that he will not rest satisfied until some decision is given on the subject. Brown, he says, has been barbarly and illegally dealt with, and brought into Canada without any color of right, and should be returned to the United States as a matter of justice.

"What do you think of this theory that lying is a disease?"

"It must be highly contagious."—Indianapolis Journal.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Oriental Labor Act Left to Government to Settle with Authorities at Ottawa.

Attorney General Martin Commences His Assault Upon Court House at Victoria.

THURSDAY, February 2.

This was another day of business in the house, several rather important bills being given their second reading and made ready for the committee stage. Mr. Helmcken's motion expressing unwillingness to withdraw the legislation passed by the house for the exclusion of Japanese from coal mines and from being employed in certain railroad construction work, and which has formed the subject of correspondence between the Dominion and the Imperial governments consequent upon a protest having been received from His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Japan, was withdrawn at the suggestion of the Premier, who said that correspondence was going on between his government and the Dominion government. Hon. Joseph Martin took another opportunity of decrying things as he has found them in British Columbia, saying that the Victoria court house is the worst adapted building for its purpose of any in the whole world, and being in return rapped rather severely by Colonel Baker, who thought the enlargement of the scope of the Medical act meant the importation of another Manitoban to take up a good billet in this province. Although a good deal of business was put through, the house adjourned early, which called forth a protest from Col. Baker, who thought it would be much more in the interest of the province that public business should be proceeded with until the regular hour of adjournment.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock and prayers were read by Rev. J. C. Speer.

RAILWAY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The chairman of the railway committee, Mr. Macpherson, brought in a report from that committee to the effect that the Cariboo & Skeena railway bill had been withdrawn, and that the bills of the Kilmaat Railway Amendment act and the Kootenay & Northwest Railway Amendment act had been favorably considered by the committee.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The President of the Council introduced a bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation act, and another to further amend the same act; both were read a first time and the second readings set for the next sitting of the house.

The Finance Minister introduced a bill respecting the department of the provincial secretary, which has for its object the establishment of a civil service in that department, and the better regulation of the department.

THE SINEWS OF WAR.

The Finance Minister submitted the customary resolution that supply be granted to Her Majesty, and that this house go into committee of the whole on Tuesday next to consider the resolution. This was formally seconded by the Premier and carried without discussion.

THE JAPANESE QUESTION.

Mr. Helmcken moved a resolution reviewing in the preamble the legislation passed by the house and which had been reserved for the pleasure of the Governor-General-in-council, and had subsequently been re-enacted under the title of the Labor Regulation act, 1898, and had formed the subject of correspondence between the Dominion and Imperial governments. The motion was in the following terms: "That in the opinion of this house, as the said act is conceived to be in the best interests of the province, this house is not prepared to pass an act to repeal the said act." The resolution was seconded by Mr. Robertson (Cowichan).

Mr. Helmcken, in submitting the resolution to the house, said he thought little, if anything, need be said to commend it to the favorable consideration of honorable members. He reviewed briefly the legislation that had been passed, reminding the house in passing that the legislation had been passed well nigh unanimously, and it seemed to him that there could be no disputing the statement that the legislation was well within the rights of the province as guaranteed under the British North America act. He had perused the return brought down by the Premier and the correspondence which had been exchanged between the Dominion and the Imperial governments, consequent upon the protest entered by the Emperor of Japan, and as it was admitted that this legislation was conceived in the interests of the great industrial population of the province he could see no good reason why the province should not stand by the right they had to legislate upon affairs which were their own immediate concern. He quoted Lord Derby as reported in Hansard, to the effect that when the Australian colonies passed legislation of a similar nature, it was recommended that the colony be not interfered with. The Duke of Devonshire had also said that in all self-governing colonies of the Empire it was recognized that the legislation affecting the internal arrangements of that colony was under the control of the parliament of that colony. It had been claimed that the Japanese should not be made subject to the same legislation as was applied to the Chinese, because they "were built of a better material." It might be said that British Columbia was to have an open door, but it certainly seemed to him that as the admission of Japanese was a thing which affected the people of this province more than those of any other province in the Dominion, it was a question upon which the people of this province might well use their right to legislate. He hoped the resolution would be supported by every member of the house.

Mr. A. W. Munro (Chilliwack) thought the matter had better be left in the hands of the government and moved an amendment to that effect. It was intended to be an amendment, the honorable member said, but the Speaker ruled that in the shape in which it had been sent up it was another resolution, and it had to be sent back to the member to be made into an amendment.

Hon. Mr. Semlin thanked the member for Victoria City for the resume he had given of the circumstances of the matter involved in the resolution, but in view of the fact that correspondence was now going on between the Provincial and Dominion governments he urged upon the honorable member the consideration whether it would not be better to leave the matter in the hands of the government. The supporters of the government had made anti-Japanese legislation a feature of the late campaign and had expressed a determination to maintain intact the legislation which had been passed. Under these circumstances, with the assurance from him that the interests of the province were in safe hands, he hoped the honorable member would either withdraw the resolution or accept the amendment.

Col. Baker appreciated the object the senior member for Victoria had in view in moving the resolution, but admitted the possibility that it might be treading on dangerous ground. There were the three governments, the Imperial, the Dominion and the Provincial, to be considered, and although it might well be maintained that the province had the right to legislate in this direction, at the same time it must be borne in mind that the Dominion had the right of veto. Of course the province could then appeal and get the judgment of the highest authority in the land. He was willing to admit that the amendment of the member for Chilliwack commended itself favorably to him, the government having in their possession all the necessary correspondence and information to enable them to deal with the matter in a proper way and without the danger of creating undue friction with the authorities at Washington.

Mr. Eberts asked the Premier whether the correspondence now going on between the Provincial and Dominion governments would be completed before the end of the session. Hon. Mr. Semlin was not able to give a definite reply to that question.

Mr. Helmcken said that his object in bringing the motion before the house was simply for the purpose of strengthening the hands of the government in the negotiations they were conducting, the assurance that the house were unanimous or nearly so in sustaining the legislation being likely to have its due effect upon the authorities at Ottawa. He read a communication he had received from the Trades and Labor Council in which he was urged to strenuously oppose the cancellation of the legislation which had been enacted for the restriction of Japanese labor. However in view of the statement of the Premier, and to prove that he had no desire to hamper the government, he was willing to withdraw his resolution. This was done, and the house passed on to the consideration of other matters.

COLUMBIA & WESTERN.

In moving the second reading of the Columbia & Western Railway bill, the Premier explained that the promoters had complied with the requirements of the act but the government had been unable to take advantage of the provisions. This act would place the parties in exactly the same position as they occupied on January 17 last.

Col. Baker saw no objection to the bill, and the second reading was agreed to, the bill to be committed at the next sitting.

MORE ROOM FOR MANITOBANS.

Hon. Dr. McKechnie, president of the council, moved the second reading of the bill to amend the Medical act, which provides for the appointment of unregistered persons to positions under the provincial government. He said that the present act was too limited in its scope and there are many reasons why the hands of the government should not be too strictly tied in the making of appointments. It could easily be proven for instance by a reference to the asylum for the insane, to take the position of medical superintendent for which there was not a man in the province who was competent. The treatment of the insane was a special branch of medicine, and although a medical practitioner might make himself a specialist in most other branches he could not in the treatment of insanity. Even he would not claim to be competent to take that position and believed that every honest medical man in the province would say the same, as the average member of the medical fraternity would not come in contact with more than four lunatics in the course of a year.

Col. Baker though that it would require very special circumstances to arise to warrant a government in going outside of the province to find a man to take an appointment, and he was afraid it was only another attempt to find a job for another importation from Manitoba.

Hon. Dr. McKechnie replied that he had not heard there was any such intention, and Mr. Kellie shouted across the floor of the house the question of how long Col. Baker had been in British Columbia. He was informed by that gentleman that the Colonel's residence here was much longer than that of the member for Revelstoke, and Hon. Mr. Martin interjected the statement that the Colonel had at any rate been imported some time.

After these little pleasantries the second reading of the bill was agreed to, the committee stage to be taken up tomorrow.

HEALTH ACT.

Mr. Eberts asked the President of the Council to allow the second reading of the Health act stand over, to allow the details of the bill to be studied by the members. This was consented to.

DENTISTS EXEMPTED.

Hon. Mr. Martin moved the second reading of the bill providing for the exemption of dentists from jury duty. He briefly explained that it seemed as desirable that the members of this profession should be exempted as well as the members of other professions.

It seemed as if the bill would go through the second reading without any more ado, but Mr. Helgesen, the impressible member for Cariboo, took the opportunity of saying that dentistry appeared to him to be a purely mechanical occupation, and that if the members of that industry were to be exempted, in all fairness the same liberality should be shown to other mechanics.

Mr. Tisdall (Vancouver) told the honorable member that if he were in the dentist's chair some morning suffering from a violent toothache and the mechanic who was operating upon him for his relief were to be called away for jury duty and told him to come again to-morrow he would look with a more kindly eye on the legislation.

Mr. Helgesen was equal to the occasion, for he retorted amid laughter that he hadn't a tooth in his head.

Second reading agreed to; committee stage to-morrow.

MR. MARTIN'S COMPLAINT.

The next business was the second reading of the bill to provide vault accommodation for the Supreme court in the parliament buildings, and it was made the occasion by Hon. Mr. Martin for another expression of his opinion in regard to British Columbia institutions. He accused the late government of having erected a court house which perhaps was the least adapted to its purpose of any building in the world. He believed that in addition to being ill-suited for the conduct of the business of the province, there was not a fire-proof vault in the whole building, and although if the building were burned down it would not be an unmixed blessing, but rather a boon to all who had to work there and who had business to transact there, still there were many valuable documents stored therein, among them many original wills, the loss of which would be a catastrophe. As there was more accommodation of this kind in the parliament buildings than could be made use of, it was proposed to utilize them for the safe keeping of those documents now jeopardized in that utterly inadequate court house.

Col. Baker commiserated with the Attorney-General that he could find nothing good in British Columbia. He had condemned our laws, our buildings, and now our vaults. Perhaps before midnight he would also be finding fault with our electors. It had been the intention of the late government to remove the registry building to the parliament buildings, and he might inform the honorable gentleman of that fact. The present museum building had been intended for that purpose. He complimented the government on again showing their appreciation of the policy of the late government by carrying it into effect.

Mr. Eberts fully agreed with the Attorney-General as to the inadequacy of the present court house, and took pleasure in the reflection that after what the Attorney-General had said the government would undoubtedly include in the estimates a good big sum for the erection of a more suitable building. He would remind the members of the government that in the estimates of last year there had been included the sum of $7,000 for the extension of the court house, for the purpose of rendering it more suitable for the purpose for which it was intended. He could see from the smiling approval of his honorable friend the Finance Minister that he was right in his conjecture that the government would make a liberal appropriation for a new building this year.

Hon. Mr. Cotton said that this was another case of the opposition trying to claim the government's policy for their own. He accused the late administration of having diverted the sum of $75,000, appropriated for a registry building for the purpose of a building for the accommodation of stuffed animals.

The second reading carried, the committee stage to be taken to-morrow.

ESCHEATS BILL.

The second reading of this measure providing for the sale of an estate which may fall into the hands of the crown to any person who may appear to have a legal or moral claim upon the person to whom the estate had belonged was moved by the Attorney-General. He thought the honorable members would agree that in the case of an illigitimate the family might naturally be supposed to keep the estate, especially if it were a homestead, in the family, and this bill will provide for the option of purchase to be given to the members of such a family at the full value. Second reading carried, committee stage next sitting.

TO APPOINT DEPUTIES.

The Attorney-General moved the second reading of the Interpretation act, which provides that the Lieut.-Governor shall have the power to appoint deputies for any official who may be appointed. He explained that the provision was copied from Manitoba, whence honorable members seemed to think nothing good could come. He warned them, however, that it was the policy of the government to copy any good legislation either from Manitoba or Ontario or Nova Scotia or any other province so long as it seemed an improvement upon that which existed in this province.

Second reading agreed to; committee stage to-morrow.

STANDARD TIME.

Hon. Mr. Cotton thought it would not be necessary for him to explain the advantage of having one uniform time observed for all legal purposes in the province. As it is now, in one portion of the province Mountain time is observed, while in another Pacific time rules. The object of the measure was to make Pacific time the observed standard eight hours behind Greenwich being the standard.

Second reading passed and the committee stage set for the next sitting.

SUCCESSION DUTIES.

Hon. Mr. Cotton moved the second reading of the bill providing for the collection of succession duty on all policies held by persons dying in the province being domiciled in the province at the time of their death. He quoted a case which had arisen wherein the action of the government in collecting succession duty on such a policy was ruled illegal by the court. The object of the bill was to remedy this.

Second reading agreed to; committee stage to-morrow.

FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.

Hon. Mr. Cotton moved the second reading of the act making it compulsory for all doors in public places of entertainment to be so made that they will open outwards. He reminded honorable members of the dreadful catastrophes that had happened owing to the non-observance of this rule. Those buildings already constructed will have to be made to conform to these regulations within thirty days.

Second reading agreed to; committee stage to-morrow.

KAMLOOPS & ATLIN RAILWAY.

Mr. Helmcken was not prepared to go on with the second reading of this bill, not having yet obtained the map showing the route, but promised to have it ready to-morrow, so the second reading went over until then.

ADJOURNMENT.

Hon. Mr. Stmlin was proposing to move the adjournment of the house when Col. Baker protested against the consequent waste of time. Here it was only a quarter to four and the government could not go on with business. It would be much better to have something to do and remain in session until the regular hour to adjournment. Another point he wished to call attention to was the fact that so many honorable members did not take the trouble to have their bills printed and they were put on the orders of the day but could not be proceeded with because of that neglect.

Hon. Mr. Semlin said that Col. Baker yesterday was anxious to have a holiday to-day for some reason and therefore the government had expedited the business of the day to allow the honorable gentleman and his friends to get away early.

The house rose at 3:45.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

By Mr. Clifford—To introduce a bill to amend the Placer Mining act.

By Hon. Mr. Martin—To introduce a bill to amend the Counties Definition act.

By Hon. Mr. Cotton—To introduce a bill respecting the department of mines.

By Mr. Kidd—To introduce a bill to amend the Municipal Clauses act.

By Hon. Mr. Semlin—To introduce a bill respecting the department of lands and works.

Julian Ralph, who has been for some years in England, writes for the December Cosmopolitan a very clever analysis of what seems to him the English ideas of a gentleman and Mr. John Brisben Walker attempts to consider the American ideals. We are in the formative stage of American manners, and too much stress can scarcely be given to the dangers of introducing those ideals which are least admirable in the character of our English cousins.

Corning, N.Y., Feb. 2.—A locomotive drawing an Erie railway freight train exploded with terrific force near Cameron station last night. The engineer and fireman were blown 50 feet and badly bruised and scalded. The fireman died to-day and the engineer is in a critical condition.

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A MISSING

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BISHOP PERRI

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