RECENT SESSION OF LEGISLATURE

An Important and Interesting Interview Had With Premier McBride.

THE KAIEN ISLAND TRANSACTION

Deal Was Solely Between the Government and Railway Company.

IN VIEW of the fact that the provincial opposition have been using every endeavor since the close of the session to blind the eyes of the people as to real issues and facts, the following interview with the Hon. Richard McBride, minister of mines and premier of the province, is of great interest.

Seen by a Colonist reporter, Mr. McBride said:

opposition have made the Kai-en Island transaction the principal objective of their heavy firing—indeed, in the case of Mr. J. A. Macdonald, to the almost entire exclusion of all other business—I cannot do better than deal with this matter first. And, to begin with, a short review of the facts of this eminently satisfactory bargain for the province will be of interest.

Kaien Island

"The sale of 10,000 acres of land on Kaien island to the Graud Trunk Pacific Railway company for their projected transcontinental railway was, from first to last, as far as the government of this province is concerned, a direct transaction with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway company itself, and with no middle-man or profit-making intermediary whatsoever. It was as simple and ordinary a business transaction—only on a larger scale—as if a man in the east or in England, desirous of purchasing a hundred and sixty acres of government land for farming or any other legitimate purpose, had sent his legal representative out here to pay over the money and execute the requisite formalities of purchase. I want to make this very clear," added the premier, "as the fact that Mr. Hays and the rest of the Grand Trunk directors did not have the time to make a trip to the coast and make a formal and public presentation of a cheque to the government of the purchase price of $10,000, has apparently greatly shocked the Liberal notions of etiquette.

"What I want the people of this province to distinctly understand is that the government of British Columbia insisted that any sale or transaction which might take place should be dealt with directly and solely between the government and the railway company. That we enforced out demand in this respect is fully and completely proved by the evidence given before the select committee—and no amount of cooked reports to eastern papers, or vague insinuations in the provincial press or on the public platform can alter these absolute facts.

"At the commencement of the session just closed, the papers and documents dealing with this transaction were laid before the house in due course by the government. There was no attempt at concealment or evasion—nor was there any desire or need for it. But it appears from their actions that the Liberal opposition in the provincial house could not conceive the possibility of any government selling public lands without getting a nice little private rake-off in the matter.

"To sum up the main points in this affair," continued Mr. McBride, "the evidence brought out by the select committee clearly proved that the government's course throughout the transaction was strictly legal and above board. It was proved, in the face of Mr. Macdonald's allegation to the contrary, that there was a legal reserve on the Tsimpean Peninsula, and that that reserve embraced Kaien island.

"Again, it was clearly shown that the chief commissioner of lands and works was justified in refusing the location under South African scrip of lands on Kaien island; and further, that the scrip which was intended to be used by the parties applying had been bought up for purely speculative purposes from the original grantors. Only one of the applicants had ever set foot in South Africa, and he was not applying under his own scrip, but under a purchased piece.

"Again, Mr. Macdonald's contention that the government had no authority to deal with the railway company regarding this land has been completely disproved by the evidence, which shows that, under section 39 of the Land act, the government was fully entitled to dispose of those lands as they did, for purposes of a terminal site.

"As to the much-talked-of minority report, upon what are the statements contained in it based?" asked the premier. "Upon the evidence laid before the select committee? No, by no manner of means; but simply upon the unsupported assertions, the disproved statements, of Mr. Macdonald.

Opposition Misstatements

"It is necessary," continued the premier, "that I should point out with utmost plainness—in view of the deplorable misstatements which the opposition and the Liberal press of the province have been fit to circulate—that the facts I have given you above are entirely and absolutely borne out by the evidence elicited by the select committee. On the other hand, no single statement in the minority report is sustained by that evidence—and this in spite of the fact that the government gave the utmost latitude to Mr. Macdonald in the pursuit of his researches. Nor did Mr. Macdonald fail in any way to avail himself of that latitude. On the contrary, the amount of time and hard work which Mr. Macdonald put in on this case took up pretty nearly the whole of the session as far as the opposition leader was concerned. And at the end of it he found that he had accomplished nothing. That he was well aware of his failure quite early in the committee's proceedings is clearly shown by the fact that he displayed no anxiety to have the evidence printed as a whole. Why, if that evidence had contained what Mr. Macdonald wanted, does any sane man believe the member for Rossland would not have made heaven and earth ring with his demands that thousands of copies should at once be printed regardless of cost, and distributed amongst the people of British Columbia?

"The literal meaning of the minority report is that the people of British Columbia are asked to believe that Mr. Garden, Mr. Ross and Dr. Young deliberately set their names to a lie to save the government to which they belonged.

"By the way," said the premier, reflectively, "it is a very odd thing that while, only a short time ago, the Toronto Globe and the Vancouver World with one voice proclaimed the Kai-En Island transaction to be an excellent one in the interests of the province, yet we find the same journals today heaping every kind of abuse upon the ministry for having consummated this most desirable bargain. It strikes me as very curious."

Columbia & Western

"Have you any statements to make with regard to the Columbia & Western land grant, Mr. McBride?" asked the reporter.

"Well," said the premier, "I dealt with that matter very fully in my speech on the second reading of the bill, but I may say that the government remains absolutely firm on the stand then taken, and the fact that the measure passed the house by a satisfactory majority is evidence that our reasons for the bill were approved by the representatives of the people. The opposition fought the bill for no other reason than that it was a government measure, and because, provided they could defeat the government, they did not care a straw whether the country was branded with the disgrace of repudiation or not.

"Let us look at the facts. Here was a company which had made a bargain with a previous government of the province. They had, in course of due time, completed that bargain, though the original government with whom they contracted had not lived to see it. They then come to the present government with the request that, having completed their undertaking in good faith, the province should now fulfil its share of the contract.

"It was argued in the house," continued the premier, "that because the contract had been made with another government, the present government was justified in taking advantage of a technicality and repudiating this just claim for services which had been duly performed. I can only say that this was a most reprehensible position to take—one most damaging to British Columbia's financial position, and an undying disgrace to the party that proposed it.

"I may say here," said Mr. McBride, "that it was well known in the house that the Liberal party was very far from being a unit on this question; in fact, some of the most prominent members on the left of the speaker favored supporting this bill. Finally, however, very strong party pressure was brought to bear and the opposition vote held intact.

"The government of the day has, since taking office, invariably tried to keep good faith with the public; and here was a case where to keep good faith meant the course that was followed in adopting this bill. The railway company had completed their work, had earned the land, and it was up to the province to deal honestly by them. As to the argument against the measure, anyone following the debate clearly must have noticed that, instead of taking up the question and dealing with it on its merits, the opposition party contented themselves with dwelling on the fact that the C. P. R. was concerned in the measure, and therefore was not deserving of fair treatment.

"Now," said the premier, "I denounce this line of conduct here, as I did in the house, as a barefaced bid for a certain class of popular support. I have, as I stated during the debate on this measure, often found occasion to oppose the C. P. R., and will always do so when I consider that the company's interests conflict with those of the province. But when Mr. Macdonald accused the government of the day, as he and his colleagues did, of being the creatures of the C. P. R., in introducing this measure, he not only makes a misstatement, but proves himself the possessor of a shockingly bad—or shall I say convenient—memory. Who was it who opposed the new Assessment act under which taxes on railways were increased five hundred per cent? It was the opposition led by Mr. Macdonald.

"So long as it is entrusted with the control of the province's affairs, this government will see to it that the fair fame of the country is not damaged by any such disgraceful repudiation as was proposed by the leader of the opposition and his colleagues.

Midway & Vernon

"Now the Midway & Vernon Subsidy act," proceeded the premier, "was a matter of an entirely different nature. Yet here—following out the extraordinary tactics which they adopted throughout the session—the opposition had the audacity to attempt to blind the public to the real issues involved by coolly asserting that the rights of the Midway & Vernon were the same as those of the Columbia & Western, and that in supporting the latter the government was bound by all the laws of consistency to support the former. No assertion could well have been more widely removed from the actual facts of the case—facts perfectly well known on both sides of the house.

"With regard to the Midway & Vernon, I have all along made the position of the government abundantly clear to the promoters of this railroad. They knew perfectly well that the province would not admit any liability, and would insist that the statute law alone should govern. That was the only possible attitude which the government could adopt consistently with its duty to the people. As trustees for the province, charged with the custody of the provincial treasury, it must be evident to the people that grave responsibilities rests upon us, especially when the question involved concerns the expenditure of close upon a million dollars of those entrusted funds. The circumstances of the case were such that we felt compelled to adopt the only prudent course, that of having the matter referred to the courts of the country.

"I cannot conceive," said the premier, "of any reason why any person should feel aggrieved by our adopting this course. His Lordship, Chief Justice Hunter, in delivering judgment on the case on the 29th ult., approved the course of the government in the following words:

"The government apparently took the view at as early a time as February, 1905, that there was some doubt as to the obligation of the government to give the aid that was empowered by the Subsidy act; and they quite justifiably in my opinion, thought it proper to refer the matter to the court."

"As for the talk about the C. P. R. having interfered with the government in this matter, it is the veriest rubbish, having not the slightest foundation, in fact. Moreover, I know the promoters of the Midway & Vernon sufficiently well to believe that they themselves would, if asked, give such a statement instant refutation.

"The company had, however, commenced some operations?" asked the reporter.

"True, some construction work had been done—but how much, and in what space of time? Why, in fifteen months the company had only constructed a quarter of a mile of their line. Figure this out and you will find that, at that rate of construction, the people of British Columbia might look for the completion of the Midway & Vernon railway some six or seven hundred years from the present date. This is hardly the sort of railway construction the people of this province require.

Fostering Home Industry

"Among the most important items of legislation which were before the house this session," said Mr. McBride, "I class the measures affecting the export of timber. The legislation previously enacted by the province towards that end had been productive of much benefit to the province, especially in the districts adjacent to the coast, where large mills had been erected and plant instaled to the value of many millions of dollars, all of which, but for this prohibitory legislation in regard to the export of timber, would never have come to this side of the international boundary at all, but would have gone to enrich and build up the cities of the state of Washington.

"It was found, however, that there was a loop-hole in the act, which was taken advantage of to export timber to the value of many hundred thousand dollars—thereby robbing the province and practically nullifying the existing prohibitory statute. The procedure was very simple. In the original legislation the class of lumbermen known as 'hand loggers' had not been debarred from exporting their small cuttings to the United States.

"But the enactment of prohibitory export legislation and the fact that the hand-loggers were exempt from its provisions under the terms of their licenses, offered a means of getting around the act which was speedily taken advantage of. Hand-loggers' licenses were purchased for numbers of men by wealthy organizations, the men were then put to work, and the product of their cutting was shipped across the line. One of the principals in this evasion of the intent of the statute was J. S. Emerson, of Vancouver.

"As soon as the government became aware that the statute was being evaded it promptly seized several of Mr. Emerson's booms of logs, and the matter came before the courts. Here, however, the legal decision went against the province, the bench holding that there was undoubtedly a loop-hole in the act in its then form. It was therefore imperative that, as soon as the house met, legislation should be enacted to make good this defect in the statute, and the government accordingly at once brought down a measure to deal with it.

"I must say," continued the premier, "that it was a source of great surprise to me to see the way in which the opposition fought this legislation in the house. Making all allowance for partizan feeling and for their eagerness to take the place of the present administration, I should yet have been inclined to give them credit for sufficient regard for the province and the welfare of one of its most important industries to have refrained from such an obstinate struggle as they made against the enactment of this most necessary measure. Fortunately their lack of sympathy with the people has left them too weak to effect the harm they desired; otherwise the lumber-manufacturing industry in British Columbia, at least as far as the coast districts are concerned, might as well close its doors.

"The attitude of the opposition in regard to this legislation is the more incomprehensible because the original prohibitory enactment met with their approval and support. Yet, when further legislation is brought to strengthen and foster home industry, we find this same opposition most bitterly against it.

"While on the subject of timber, Mr. McBride," said the reporter, "is it a fact that the loggers of British Columbia have commended the chief commissioner of lands and works for introducing the Log Scaling act?"

Log Scaling Act

"Yes," replied the premier, "and it is very gratifying to note that the approval of this legislation is practically universal. While some few of the mill-men have objected to its provisions, for the most part all parties, loggers and mill-men both, are well pleased with the measure.

"In this connection," added Mr. McBride, "I should like to express my high appreciation of the valuable work which the chief commissioner of lands and works has done in the interests of British Columbia since he took over office some three years ago, and the satisfaction it is to me to see that the results of his efforts are beginning to tell. Among the principal of these are the Fraser river dyking measures, the important and necessary amendments to the Land act, and now—of almost equal moment—the developments of a policy with regard to the timber of the province which will go far to strengthen and build up a great and growing industry in British Columbia.

The Education Act

Turning to the much-discussed subject of the educational legislation before the house during the session, the premier said:

"There was, and is, every anxiety on the part of the government to make the Education act as easily workable as possible, and, considering the nature of this legislation, it is not a matter of surprise that there should be a necessity for amendments towards that end. The act involves in its provisions some very radical departures from the old order of things—departures which the rapid growth of the province rendered necessary, and the efficiency of some of the changes made could only be proved by the test of actual experience. In the main, the act sustained that test exceedingly well, but there were naturally some features which required adjustment, and it was to effect this that the amending act was brought down. Its provisions were in direct line with what experience had shown to be requisite. The Hon. Mr. Fulton, minister of education, having shown every readiness to accept suggestions from municipal councils, school boards, etc.; and, as a result of a very extensive investigation into the workings of the act, the amendments of the present session were introduced. That they met with the same furious and illogical opposition from the Liberal members on the left of the speaker as had been bestowed upon the original measure goes without saying, but the house was not inclined to accept declamatory denunciations as argument.

"Speaking in general of the Education act," proceeded the premier, "it is very gratifying to note that, instead of the bill being treated in the hostile fashion which was prophesied by the opposition, the people have, with one or two exceptions, accepted the situation, and today more interest than was ever the case before is being taken by both parents and trustees in their duties in relation to school matters. After all, we are simply applying to the public school what has been applied to a great many things under the control of the legislature, namely, local administration—which is admittedly a good thing.

The University Bill

"In regard to the other educational matter that was before the house during the session, namely, the University bill, the opposition that was put up to this measure has proved in the end to be rather ill-advised. There is no disposition on the part of McGill to do anything that will retard or delay the establishment of a provincial university in British Columbia; and every assurance has been given to the provincial government that, just as soon as we are able to consider the question of such an institution, McGill will most gladly do all in her power to assist.

"The opposition, hungry to grasp at anything that might make a point, fought a rather strenuous fight on this measure, and received a defeat which, considering their motives, was well merited. It would have been unfortunate indeed if the people of British Columbia had refused to receive assistance from an institution which today ranks among the foremost seats of learning on the American continent."

Financial Condition

"Speaking with reference to the budget, Mr. McBride, what is your opinion of the present financial position of the province?" asked the reporter.

"Eminently satisfactory," replied the premier. "Notwithstanding the loss of the Chinese head-tax, and the increased demands for public works, we are enabled to make a showing which proves beyond a doubt that the administration of the province's financial affairs has been conducted along safe and business-like lines. Nothing has been more conducive to the bringing about of the present good times in this province than the financial showing made by the ministry.

"Without at all reflecting on any of his predecessors, Captain Tatlow is admitted on all sides to be one of the most capable finance ministers we have ever had.

"The men who operate the mines and mills and keep commerce alive in British Columbia share our views, and the opinions of all the Canadian banks are well known to be strongly in approval of the management of the business affairs of this province as administered by the present government."

In summing up, what has the opposition done this session?" asked the reporter.

"Absolutely nothing," deplied Mr. McBride. "As leader of his party, Mr. Macdonald failed during the whole session, as he did in the two previous sessions, to make any announcement of what the policy of the Liberal party might be. Search the newspaper reports and, with the single exception of the School act, one fails to find anything at all that might be considered indicative of a preference for any line of policy—and, with regard to the School act, everyone knows that this was another instance of the leader of the opposition trying to make a little political capital.

Opposition Attitude

"But to particularize, where can Mr. Macdonald be said to have spoken for his party on the railway situation, on the lumber question, or on better terms for this province? It is a matter of public knowledge and comment that some of the most prominent measures which have shown the most excellent results—received the high compliment of the most bitter opposition from Mr. Macdonald and his party. Take as an example of this the lumber question, regarding which I have previously spoken, and note the woeful ignorance of his subject displayed by Mr. Macdonald, and the obstinacy with which he refused to accept the explanations of the chief commissioner of lands and works. That was partizanship, not statesmanship. It was the same with the railways, the same with finance. The fiscal policy of this government, always received the strenuous opposition of Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Stuart Henderson, and the peculiar way in which these gentlemen handled their case made it exceedingly clear that they objected to the government's policy in every other matter—that is, simply because it was the government's policy and for no other reason.

"The extraordinary appeals of the opposition to the public, the false rumors in the opposition press of the government's impending resignation, the misleading reports sent to the eastern papers, the baseless assertions and the empty threats which filled the papers, have failed as they deserved to fail; and I feel perfectly satisfied that the straightforward course the government have pursued and the legislation they have passed at the session just closed will meet with the commendation of the people of this province.

MORE REVELATIONS IN YORK COUNTY FINANCE

Bold Methods by Which the Shareholders Were Robbed of Their Money.

TORONTO, April 6.—Joseph Barrett, the man who got the ear of Joseph Phillips, likewise a loan of $212,000 to develop the Southern Light & Power Company, was put on the stand this morning to tell what he knew about the flotation of that enterprise. Before the company was one year old it assigned. It had started out with a salary list of $950 per week, divided amongst W. H. Hunter, solicitor, the president and the managing director. In all some $313,000 was advanced the power company by the York County Loan.

Mr. Jones again objected that Mr. Curry was asking irrelevant questions.

"Do you want my opinion?" asked the magistrate.

"No; I object as much to your comments as I do to Mr. Curry's."

Attorney-General Curry took E. J. Burt in hand, questioning him as to what he had done with certain checks, but he elicited very little information. Burt did not know where the money he loaned to Phillips came from, but in admitting he had netted $17,000 from the Toronto Life, said the money was his own and he intended to keep it.

A Comical Dialogue

"I think you ought to hand it over to the York County Loan," said Mr. Curry. "You will never have the opportunity of earning the same during the rest of your natural life."

"The Toronto Life built up quite a nice little business" was witness' reply.

"You never before heard of a company that had a York Loan to fall back upon," retorted Mr. Curry.

"No," the witness admitted.

"You will never have a York County Loan again," said Mr. Curry.

"That's right," was the reply.

"I think the people of this country have had sufficient lesson until a new generation has grown up that knew not Joseph." The crowd in court laughed, but they were called to order.

Phillips has now to go to and from jail in company with ordinary prisoners, the authorities refusing to allow him to go in a cab. His hair, a jet black when the investigation began, has now some streaks of gray and he is pale.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT PORTLAND

Blaze Breaks Out in Chamber of Commerce Building With Fatal Result.

FRENZIED MAN'S RASH ACT

Trial in Honolulu Reveals Fearful Crime of Supposed Maniac.

PORTLAND, April 6.—(Special.)—Fire in upper floors of the chamber of Commerce building, eight stories high, resulted in the loss of two lives, the narrow escape for scores of others, and the destruction of $100,000 worth of property. Homer Hallock, for twenty-five years an employee of the Oregon Railway and Navigation company was in the rooms of the Commercial Club with a number of friends, when the fire broke out, Hallock became frantic with fright and jumped from an eight-story window into the court on the ground floor of the building. He was instantly killed. Hallock recently came to the city from Pendleton. Another man was perhaps fatally injured in jumping from the building. The blaze originated in the rooms of the Portland Commercial club which occupied the upper floors and tower. Crowds of men and women attempted to use the fire escapes. Firemen finally rescued them by means of ladders. The Chamber of Commerce building was recently purchased by the United Railways company at a price in the neighborhood of $1,000,000. The building is very substantially built.

Alaskan Mining Developments

Tacoma, April 6.—The American Smelter company is to build 125 miles of railroad from Valdez to the Bonanza copper mine in Alaska at once. This has been decided upon by Daniel Guggenheim, president of the company, after consultation with W. R. Rust of the Tacoma smelter. The ore will be made into "matte," at Valdez and shipped here to be refined.

Murderer Hanged

Sacramento, Cal., April 6.—(Special.)—George C. Easton was hanged at Folsom state prison today for the murder of Charles Horigan at Dixon, Solano county, November 2, 1904.

A Maniac's Crime

Honolulu, March 31, via San Francisco, April 6.—(Special.)—The trial of the case of Frank Johnson, charged with the murder of 5-year-old Simeon Wharton, has been before Judge Robinson the past week, and has been marked by remarkably dramatic scenes. The mother of the alleged victim was called as witness and compelled to identify the boy's garments, which were found soaked in blood, several times she broke down in attempting to describe her search for Simeon, on the day of his disappearance, and the final discovery of the body, which had been cut to pieces and covered over with weeds and dirt. An alleged confession by Johnson, describing with revolting detail, how he committed the murder, was read to the jury. The defence is insanity.

Subscriptions in Honolulu

Honolulu, H. C., March 31, via San Francisco, April 6.—(Special.)—Chinese residents here have subscribed $300,000 for building of the Hankow-Canton railroad by Chinese. The sum of $2,500 has been sent by the Hawaiian sugar planters association to relieve sufferers by the famine in Japan. Other local subscriptions of Japanese and whites are being gathered for same purpose.

The Great Baldwin Dead

Los Angeles, Cal., April 6.—(Special.)—Elias J. Baldwin, uncle of J. Baldwin, is dead at the home of his nephew at Arcadia, aged 83 years. He and his famous nephew had many business interests in common and formerly lived together for a number of years at the Baldwin hotel in San Francisco.

Prisoners From Philippines

San Francisco, April 6.—The United States transport Sheridan, which arrived from Manila last night, had on board, besides a large number of passengers and a battalion of the Tenth Infantry, four general prisoners for the military prisons, among them being Sidney S. Burbank, formerly a lieutenant in the Sixth Infantry. Lieut. Burbank was courtmartialed and sentenced to be dismissed from the service of the army and to serve fifteen months in the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. He was married to a Filipino woman, and after reaching the mainland renounced her and reported to the war department that he was single.

Amateur Boxing Tournament

San Francisco, April 6.—In the concluding bout last night of the American Amateur Association between heavyweights Walter Kirchner and Ed Harkins, both local men, Harkins was knocked out in the first round. His head struck the floor with terrific impact, and at midnight he was still in a semi-conscious state. Harkins was taken to a hospital, where he was kept in order to ensure his complete recovery. Physicians who examined him stated that there was only a slight concussion of the brain and no evidence of any fracture.

The Situation in China

San Francisco, April 6.—Allen W. Murphy of Berkeley, Cal., who has been twice consul at Tientsin, China, arrived from the Orient yesterday on the transport Sheridan. Speaking of the situation in China, Mr. Murphy said: "There is undoubtedly strong disruption at work in China, with no real government to control it. A crisis may arise at any moment, demanding the intervention of an armed force for the protection of foreign residents. The boycott on American goods, which was not considered serious at first, has certainly taken on a serious aspect, and the agitation is by no means over. In the north the boycott was suppressed by Yuen Shihkai, viceroy of Chi Li province. Northern China is now in a peaceful state and there are no signs of unrest. In the south the movement has received a degree of encouragement from the official class. Large quantities of American goods which were shipped last year are still in Chinese warehouses, because the consignees refused to accept them. I do not think that the next report of trade conditions will show that our exports to China have increased."

MARINERS REWARDED.

Liverpool, April 6.—The British Humane society has posted gold medals to Captains Clark of the Bostonian and Schann of the Monnheim silver medals to the subordinate officers of the steamers and many awards totaling £600 to the boat's crew of the vessels who assisted in the rescue of the steamer British King, which foundered off Sable island March 11th.

TUSSLE WITH HARRIMAN.

Effort to Get Hold of Wells-Fargo Express Company

New York, April 6.—It is tonight admitted in financial circles here that E. H. Harriman, who is recognized as the dominant factor in affairs of the Wells-Fargo Express company, is to have the fight of his life to retain control of that corporation at the annual meeting next August. The fight for proxies is already on, and W. G. Stokes & Co. of this city have sent a circular broadcast to stockholders asking for proxies, so that they may be able to force the payment of an increased dividend and also a partial disbursement of the accumulated surplus.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

Phenomenal Ore Values Discovered in New Ontario.

Winnipeg, April 6.—Finds of phenomenal richness in the Laurentian mine at Dinorwie, Ont., continue to be the feature of mining in New Ontario. The last shot in this famous property brought down ore valued at $75,000, according to assays of a portion of it.

A certain amount of disappointment prevails here tonight owing to the fact that the settlement which had been expected in the afternoon did not occur in the street railway strike. All matters at issue have been arranged excepting that of wages, and although neither side will discuss the question, it is understood the company has offered to compromise in this, giving a cent an hour advance. This will be considered by the men at a mass meeting tomorrow.

WILL SURELY RIVAL THE FERTILE BULKLEY VALLEY

Stewart on Portland Canal Will Be Scene of Activity This Season.

An almost virgin field for the prospector, with unlimited water power, and climatic conditions that enable the continuance of work the entire year round, has been discovered at Stewart, says the Vancouver Province.

It is situated on tidewater, at the head of Portland canal, at the mouth of Bear river, and after June 1 prospectors will find an up-to-date store and hotel awaiting them. Port Simpson is reached by all steamers in the Northern trade, and the Union Steamship company's steamer Camosun makes a tri-monthly trip from Victoria to Stewart. The townsite will be surveyed this summer; while the provincial government is giving evidence of the importance of the district by sending an engineer to report on the advisability of bridging the Bear river. At present a cable and traveling cage are the means by which this river is crossed.

Inducements to Prospectors

As a field for the prospector this district offers many inducements. The country yet to be explored is of vast extent, and according to Le Roy Dana, a mining expert who visited the district three years ago, it presents all the characteristics of a great mining country; this opinion, which was given on inspecting the Roosevelt group, then the only mining location in the district, is now being amply borne out by the later discoveries.

The similarity of the ores of the Unak camp and the trend of the mineralized zone being the same—northwest and southeast—there is a strong probability that the zone is continuous from one camp to the other, a distance of about forty miles.

How far south the zone continues it is impossible to say, but mining locations have been made at different points on Portland canal as far south as Maple Bay, where the Brown-Alaska company has 28 claims. This is a copper-gold country. The ledges are well defined, and the average value of the ore is $37.

Many Claims Located

Throughout this whole district the mining development during the past season far exceeded expectations, 65 new locations being made, while active work was begun on several properties. Some 40 new prospectors went in, all of them locating promising claims. These claims were located mainly on Glacier creek, the rich strike there during the early part of the season tending to concentrate the efforts of the prospectors to this particular locality, where 30 claims in all were located, the major portion of them having large surface showings of galena.

Of the many promising properties now under bond, it will suffice to mention the American Girl group, $250,000; and the Outsider and Blue Bell groups at Maple Bay, $125,000, where a hundred men are now at work.

As an attraction for prospectors during the coming season, Stewart and its vicinity will rival the famous Bulkley and Telqua valleys. It is much easier of access, and in anticipation of a rush of prospectors during the next few months, those interested in the district have made many preparations in the way of the erection of stores and a hotel. The first class passenger rate to Stewart from Vancouver is only $20, and steamers of the Union Steamship company make it a port of call every three weeks.

CONFINED TO BARRACKS.

Kingston, April 6.—A big bunch of cadets are under the "ban" of confinement to the barracks at the Royal Military college, due, it is said, to a lively episode following the rollicking minstrel show given in the gymnasium some days ago.

PRINCE ARTHUR IN ALBERTA.

His Royal Highness Visits the Capital of the Province.

Edmonton, April 6.—Prince Arthur and his party received a hearty welcome to the Alberta capital today. A large number of citizens assembled at the depot to meet the royal train and his royal highness was then driven to the skating rink, which had been decorated for the occasion, where an address from the legislature and another from the city were presented to him. The prince acknowledged these with the same good grace and charming manner which has characterized his previous utterances in Canada. When speech making had concluded the party partook of luncheon and afterwards spent the afternoon driving around this city and Strathcona.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN CONTROVERSY ENDED

Coalition Party Succeeds in Bridging Difficulty Between Two Nations.

FEARED THE RETURN OF ABSOLUTISM

Leader Has Interview With the Emperor and Elections Will Proceed.

Vienna, April 6.—After fourteen months of controversy between the throne and the coalition parties, the Hungarian crisis finally has been settled. Both sides express satisfaction with the result obtained, which appears to be in the nature of a compromise. The news of peace was received with joy in both houses. Everyone was heartily tired of the struggle, which has had such a disastrous effect on the financial economic situation in Hungary. The compromise was chiefly due to the efforts of the coalitionists, who feared at the last moment the advent of a period of absolutism, which was inevitable if the elections were not held before April 9th, as prescribed by the constitution. The Feiervary cabinet welcomes the overtures of the coalition, and thus an agreement speedily was reached.

Hunzary now can return to her normal political experience. The elections will be held within the proper time, and parliamentary government re-established. The crown

Will Get Recruits Wanted

the army funds for military service will be voted and the customs tariff and commercial treaties will be ratified by the Hungarian parliament. The commercial union with Austria is assured until 1917. Frances Kossuth, the coalition leader, today declared himself satisfied. He said the result was not a victory for either party. Herr Kossuth announced that he would not enter the cabinet, but would remain the leader of the independent party. Count Apponyi also will not enter the cabinet.

Count Andrassy and Herr Kossuth today had an audience with Emperor Francis Joseph and afterwards conferred with Premier Fejervary. The Emperior approved of the proposal that Alexander Wekerle be entrusted with the formation of a new government. It is expected that the appointment of the new ministers and the proclamation of elections will be announced officially on April 8th.

Terms of the Agreement

Under the terms of the agreement the emperor-king assents to the formation of a new cabinet of coalition to carry out the instructions under the limited election law this month and to hold a session of parliament in May. The government guarantees to pass the budget of 1905-6 and also the recruiting and investment bills and annual commercial treaties and to maintain the status quo between Austria and Hungary. The new parliament will be asked to pass a bill adopting universal suffrage, and then will be dissolved, allowing the election of a new parliament under the universal suffrage system to deal with the military demand and right of the crown under the constitution. The government, after the universal suffrage election, will be formed in conformity with the desires of the majority of the parliament. It it probable that the king-emperor, after a year's absence, will visit Budapest on April 9th, in order to swear in the Wekerle cabinet.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE.

(Before His Honor Judge Lampman)

April 6, 1906.

Maher vs. Douglas—In this case the defendant was ordered to file, within four days, a further and better affidavit of documents; plaintiff entitled to the costs of the summons. A. D. Crease for plaintiff; H. D. Helmcken, K. C., for defendant.

National Cash Register vs. Renfrew—This was a replevin action for the recovery of a cash register sold by the plaintiff company to one Christo, who gave a hire receipt. Christo sold the register to a man named Bones, from whom Renfrew bought it. The plaintiffs now claim the machine or $15, balance of original price ($65) due by Christo. Judgment was to have been given this morning, but His Honor asked for further evidence from Wallbridge, the manager of the plaintiff company. H. G. S. Heisterman for plaintiff company; R. T. Elliott for defendant.

Bownass vs. Munn—This was a mechanic's lien action, claim being for hardware supplied in erection of Mrs. Munn's residence on Terrace avenue to a contractor named Mason, who skipped out before the completion of the building, and plaintiff filed a lien. The chief question was a technical one as to a discrepancy in the dates of the affidavit of lien filed. Judgment for plaintiff for $58.50 and costs. F. B. Gregory for plaintiff; Harold B. Robertson for defendant.

Before His Honor Judge Lampman this afternoon, Alfred Williams, who was sent up for trial by Magistrate Hall for obtaining money under false pretences, applied for bail. His Honor fixed the bail at $2,500, in two sureties of $1,250 each. Harold B. Robertson for Williams; F. J. Fulton, K. C., A.-G., for the crown.

Williams & Mellis vs. Henderson and Hambly—This was a mechanic's lien action in which plaintiffs claimed $530, price of mirrors, grates, etc., put into Henderson's store at the corner of Broughton and Government streets, Henderson being the lessee and Hambly the owner. Evidence was taken this morning and plaintiffs obtained judgment for full amount claimed against Henderson. The claim against Hambly's interest was abandoned. Some time ago, in the suit of the Melrose Company vs. Henderson, the fixtures in the building, which were held to be tenant's fixtures, were sold by order of the court and the money paid into court until further order. The matter will now have to be decided as to whether Williams & Mellis or the Melrose Company are entitled to the money in court. This will likely come up for argument at an early date. H. G. S. Heisterman for plaintiffs; R. T. Elliott for Hambly; no one appeared for Henderson.