

THE MORTGAGE TAX.

Mr. Cotton's Condemnatory Resolution Falls to the Ground in the Legislature.

A Quiet Afternoon With the Advancement of Private Bills the Chief Business.

Yesterday was another dull day in the local house, the advancement of private bills being the chief business receiving consideration...

Mr. Speaker having taken the chair at the usual hour, and prayers having been read by Rev. Ralph W. Trotter...

Hon. Col. Baker presented a return containing all information in connection with an investigation held by Gold Commissioner G. C. Tunstall into the conduct of Mr. Hugh Hunter...

Mr. Hunter held that no rights or privileges of the petitioners had been or would be jeopardized in the present instance...

Mr. Forster moved the adjournment of the debate, on the motion to adopt the report.

COMPLET WITH AMENDMENTS. The railway committee, through Mr. Booth, chairman, reported the incorporation bill the Kootenay Valley Railway Company complete with amendments.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Præsumpt to notice the following questions were asked and answered by the ministers:

Mr. Vedder asked—What was the \$122.50 entered in the accounts at the 30th June, 1891, paid on account of the Matsqui dyking commissioners?

Hon. Mr. Martin replied—In payment of their proportion of the inspecting engineer's salary to that date. They were aware that such salary was being advanced by the government, and was properly chargeable to them.

Mr. Kennedy asked—By what rule are logs cut on leases or on loggers' licenses computed for revenue? 2. By what rule is the rebate which is allowed on lumber exported computed? 3. Is it the intention of the government to abolish said rebate, or to reduce the dues to all?

Hon. Mr. Martin replied—1. By the British Columbia log scale. 2. By the actual measurement of the lumber exported.

Mr. Semlin asked—Have you received a petition this year in reference to the construction of a road from Princeton to Kereneos, in the Similkameen valley?

Hon. Mr. Martin replied—No. THE REVISED STATUTES. After consideration in house committee, with Mr. Huff as chairman, the bill for bringing into force the revised statutes of the provinces was reported complete with amendments, the report to be dealt with on Tuesday.

THE MORTGAGE TAX. On the resuming of the debate on Mr. Cotton's resolution condemnatory of the mortgage tax and Major Mutter's amendment, Messrs. Kidd, King, Williams, Mutter, Col. Baker, Stoddart, Macpherson, Cotton, Kennedy and Eberts were heard from, the opposition speakers endeavoring to prove the mortgage tax dual taxation, and the attorney-general replying in the affirmative.

Mr. Macpherson—For a return of all companies that have complied with the provisions of the Companies' act of 1891; also any companies that have rendered themselves liable to the penalties of the act, with a statement of the steps taken against such companies.

Mr. Semlin—For a return showing (a) Statement of all timber leases granted to the particular of the amount of \$2,218 paid to M. P. Gordon and the amount of \$1,198 paid to Weller—vide Public Accounts, 1894-95, page 103.

Mr. Hume—For all correspondence in regard to the application of A. F. Heineke for a record of water on Beaver Creek.

Mr. Semlin—For all advertisements calling for tenders for the furnishing of the Provincial Home at Kamloops; for the particulars of the amount of \$2,218 paid to M. P. Gordon and the amount of \$1,198 paid to Weller—vide Public Accounts, 1894-95, page 103.

Mr. Cotton—For copies of any correspondence between His Honor or His Honor's ministers and any person in regard to the regulations issued under the provisions of the Water Classes Consolidation act.

Mr. Hunter, in connection with the last mentioned resolution, commented upon the peculiarity of the wording employed. Did the junior member for Vancouver wish to infer that His Honor had acted without the advice of his responsible ministers? Was there anything in the act in question empowering the Lieut.-Governor to act herein without the advice of his responsible advisers?

Mr. Cotton explained that letters might have been written to His Honor individually, and hence the wording of the resolution.

Hon. Col. Baker observed that if any letters had, as intimated, been addressed to the Lieutenant-Governor, they would assuredly have been laid before the executive council. He had, however, no objection to the resolution, no matter how the junior member for Vancouver might be pleased to word it.

RETURN PRESENTED. Hon. Col. Baker presented a voluminous return of correspondence with reference to the employment of Chinese and Japanese underground in metallurgical mines.

THE YUKON RAILWAY PETITION. Mr. Hunter presented in behalf of the private bills committee the following report: That your committee has considered petition No. 23, being the petition of William McKenzie, Donald D. Mann and John Herbert Hoar, and your committee begs to recommend that the order of the house for the reception of the said petition and its reference to this committee be rescinded.

NO SITTING TO-DAY.

After An Uneventful Afternoon the Legislature Adjourns Until Thursday.

The Revised Statutes Pass Their Final Reading in the House.

After a short and decidedly uneventful session yesterday, the provincial legislature has adjourned until the customary hour tomorrow, to allow the several standing committees more time for the discharge of their important duties in getting private legislation into form, and also—it is stated—to enable the framing of the estimates to be completed so that the anticipated revenue and expenditure for the current year may be announced to the house on the resumption of business.

The twelfth working day of the session yesterday, was introduced with prayers by Rev. Ralph W. Trotter, after which

Mr. Braden (Victoria City), speaking to a question of privilege, expressed regret that the country's flag was not more generally displayed from the lofty pole in front of the session, and emphasized the importance of keeping the nation's banner floating, especially during the continuance of the session, and hoped that the members would take action upon his suggestion.

PETITIONS DEALT WITH. The petition of Thomas Madsen and other residents of Kootenay, in reference to the amendment of the Mining Act, and that of Mr. Skinner and other free miners of the Ainsworth mining division of the same province, were read, and on motion of Mr. Hume received. Major Mutter presented a petition from certain residents of Cowichan-Alberni, regarding the petition of the Cowichan Lumber Co. for permission to make certain improvements.

FINALLY PASSED. On the report of the Statutes Revision Committee, a slight amendment was introduced in the form of a new section at the suggestion and request of the commissioner. The bill was then read a third time and finally passed.

ASIATICS IN UNDERGROUND WORKINGS. Hon. Colonel Baker, on the order being reached for the second reading of the Coal Mines act, proposed the following amendment: That the order be discharged, the point at issue—providing a penalty—would be found to be fully met in the revised statutes in the amended clause, which reads: "shall the order be discharged," endeavored to review the entire history of legislation as affecting the employment of Chinese and Japanese in the underground workings, explaining how the point had arisen as to the right of the legislature to enact laws of this character. The government had finally decided, and had been assured that the power thus to legislate rested with the house.

Mr. Williams—To ask: "Name of magistrate or magistrates from whom the sum of one dollar, mentioned in statement of receipts of amount brought to account in the revenue return (page 20) as miscellaneous receipts in public accounts, July, 1896, to 30th June, 1897, was received?"

By Mr. Hume—To ask: "1. What amount of real property taxes and personal property taxes collected from the Yukon Colliery for each of the following years—1894, 1895, 1896 and 1897? 2. Wellington Colliery, ditto? 3. New Vancouver Colliery, ditto? What amount of coal was produced from each colliery in each of the above-mentioned years?"

Well Done Home Work. The tidy, methodical and economical mother, or daughter, when she has home work to do, always aims to do it well. Whatever the hands find to do—whether it be sweeping, dusting, darning, or embroidering or fancy work—there is a delight and satisfaction in having things done well; it is only well done work that pays.

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KLONDIKE AT CUSTOMS.

Miners' License Fees Paid in Victoria Yielding Twenty Dollars Per Minute.

Departure of the "Australia" and the "Amur" on Their Initial Voyages to the North.

The Victoria custom house in these days of preparation for the gold fields is just about the liveliest place in the whole Northwest. Anyone who does not believe this to be a fact has only to pay Collector Milne's headquarters a visit on a lively steamer day when passengers for the upper Yukon are struggling as they were yesterday, to secure their permits and away.

Upwards of a hundred had come in by the City of Kingston, there were by many more arriving on the City of Puebla, the Noyo and the Australia had each her special contingent to swell the miscellaneous throng—and each and every one wanted to get his credentials as a free miner and get aboard his ship just as quickly as he possibly could.

As a result the prospective gold-miners stood in a double line and waited their turn—the parade at the time the custom house opened at 9 o'clock extending from the building for two blocks and a half, and reminding one forcibly of a jubilee procession minus the waving banners.

Within the custom house, three expert clerks issued the all-important bits of paper at the rate of two a minute—very fair speed certainly, but not fast enough to suit the waiting army, who clamored for extra clerical aid for the collector in this new branch of his official duty.

Two licenses a minute at a cost of \$10 each means \$20 added to the Canadian revenue every minute that the clerks are thus rushed, or \$1,200 an hour—and very fair speed certainly, but not fast enough to suit the waiting army, who clamored for extra clerical aid for the collector in this new branch of his official duty.

Mr. Rithet, senior member for Victoria, who opposed the following amendment: Dr. Walkem wanted it extended until Monday, if an adjournment was found necessary for more than the day.

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