

LAST YEAR'S LEGISLATION.

Several Acts Reviewed at Length by the Dominion Minister of Justice.

Objections to the Parliament Buildings Bill Dealt With—All Acts Assented to.

A very interesting return was presented to the house by the Provincial Secretary yesterday, being a series of papers relating to the acts passed by the legislature of British Columbia during the session of 1893, and the action taken upon them by the Dominion authorities. Of the 67 acts, a list of which is given, 62 were assented to without remark, and with respect to the other five, also assented to, there is the following report from Sir John Thompson, Minister of Justice:

OTTAWA, 27th December, 1893.

To His Excellency the Governor-General in Council.

The undersigned has the honor to report upon the following acts passed by the legislature of the province of British Columbia, passed in the 56th year of Her Majesty's reign (1893), received by the Secretary of State for Canada on the 28th day of April, 1893, as follows:

Chapter 15.—"An Act respecting the Public Health."—By section 12 of this act, it is provided that the Provincial Board of Health may, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, issue such regulations as the board may deem necessary for the prevention, treatment, mitigation and suppression of disease, and that the board may by such regulations, among other things, provide for the inspection of steamboats and vessels, and the cleaning, purifying, ventilating and disinfecting thereof, and for detaining for inspection any steamboat and vessel, and any person travelling therein, and any person travelling thereby.

Chapter 20.—"An Act to amend the Municipal Act, 1892."—Section 18 provides that in every municipality the council may make, alter and repeal by-laws for the purpose, among others, of regulating, with a view of preventing the spread of infectious or contagious diseases, the entry or departure of passengers or cargoes on board the same. These provisions appear to relate to some extent to the matter of quarantine, which comes within the legislative powers assigned by "The British North America Act" to parliament, and in respect of which statutes have been enacted by parliament. Such provisions cannot, in the opinion of the undersigned, have effect except as to matters outside the control of the parliament of Canada and within the control of the province, as, for example, the passing of boats, vessels, passengers and cargoes from place to place within the province. As there is room for their application in such matters, the undersigned would not recommend the exercise of the power of disallowance with regard to these statutes.

Chapter 24.—"An Act to provide for the erection of new buildings for the accommodation of the provincial legislature and the public departments."—This act recites that it should be expedient that new buildings should be erected for the proper and needful accommodation of the provincial legislature and the departments of the public service, and that the buildings now in use for such purposes are wholly inadequate; that new buildings can be erected at a cost not exceeding \$500,000, and that authority should be given to pledge the credit of the province to provide such funds; and it is enacted that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall have power to authorize the Commissioner of Lands and Works to enter into a contract for the erection of such new buildings, the consideration money of the contract not to exceed \$500,000, that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, in discharge of obligations arising under such contract, out of such of the surplus moneys forming a portion of the consolidated revenue fund of the province as may be available therefor; that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, in addition to all other moneys authorized to be raised or borrowed by any other act of the province, at discretion, borrow or raise any sum of money not exceeding \$500,000, by the sale of debentures or otherwise, and that all sums so realized shall be paid in such manner as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall prescribe to the Minister of Finance, and shall be deemed to be surplus revenue fund of the province, available for the purpose of discharging obligations under the contract hereinafter referred to.

A petition signed by a great number of the inhabitants of the province has been presented to Your Excellency in Council objecting to this statute, mainly upon the grounds as alleged, that the proposed expenditure cannot be justified upon any ground of necessity or expediency, and that it will involve an addition to the debt of the province which will seriously curtail its ability to provide for necessary works of development; that owing to the rapid increase in the population of certain parts of British Columbia since the opening of the Canadian Pacific railway, the legislative assembly of the province has not been for many years representative of the people of the province, and that the assembly is not representative of the principle of responsible government. The prayer of the petition is not for disallowance of the act complained of, but the petitioners pray that Your Excellency may be pleased "to veto the statute so that the same may have no force or effect until and unless it be assented to by a majority of the members of a legislature properly representative of the people of the province." The undersigned caused a copy of this petition to be sent to the Attorney-General of the province for the purpose of obtaining the views of the provincial government in regard thereto, and he has received in reply, through the hon. secretary of state, a copy of a report of a committee of the executive council of the province, approved by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the province, embodying the report of the Attorney-General on the subject of the petition. The petition, together with the report of the executive council, is herewith annexed and made a part of this report. The undersigned observes that the various statements set forth in the petition are very largely met and explained by what is stated in the report of the executive council of the province.

The undersigned desires to point out that there is no power vested in Your Excellency in Council to make a conditional disallowance, or to veto, as prayed for, or to suspend the operation of a statute, so that the same may have no force or effect until and unless it be assented to by a majority of the members of the legislature constituted, differently from that which exists. The undersigned would further observe that the power of veto possessed by Your Excellency appears to be the power of disallowance reserved by the British North America Act. The subject of the enactment com-

plained in the petition is one peculiarly for the legislature of the province to deal with. The petitioners declare that for want of an act to redistribute the representation of the province, the representation of the inhabitants of British Columbia is most inadequately provided for, to a degree which is equivalent to a denial of the advantages of responsible government, and that while the government of the province is supported by a majority of members of the house of assembly, the number of members who do not support the government represent more than twice as many voters as those who are government supporters. These complaints it is impossible for Your Excellency to pass upon or to redress. The facts on which they are based are, moreover, in dispute. The remedy for the several grievances complained of, assuming them to exist, as alleged, lies with the legislature of the province. The undersigned cannot, therefore, recommend that the power of disallowance should be exercised with respect to this act.

Chapter 51.—"An Act to incorporate the Klamath Electric Light, Power and Water Works Company, Limited."—This statute purports to give the company power to divert and appropriate so much of the waters of the Klamath river and its tributaries and canals as shall be deemed necessary and desirable for the purpose of supplying the inhabitants of the town of Klamath, and parts adjacent thereto, with an abundant supply of water; also for the purpose of generating electricity, and to construct and maintain all erections, wires, wheels, raceways, dams, flumes or other works necessary for making the water power available.

Chapter 52.—"An Act to incorporate the Oxygon and Okanagan Railway Company."—This company is incorporated for the purpose, among others, of constructing and operating a line of railway from some point at the foot of Okanagan lake, in the province of British Columbia, to a point on the Kettle river, at or near the place where the river crosses the international boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the United States, and by the terms of the statute the company is given power at any point where the terminus of the railway, or any branch thereof, crosses any navigable water, to acquire and hold as its own absolute property, piers, docks and wharves, lots and land over the waters adjoining the same, to build elevators, store-houses, engine-houses, sheds, docks, piers, and other structures for the use of the company, and of the steam and other vessels owned, worked and controlled by the company, or of any other steam or other vessels, and to collect wharfage and store charges for the use of the same; also to erect, build and maintain all mules, piers, wharves and docks necessary and proper for the protection and convenience of vessels entering, leaving or lying within the same, and to dredge, deepen and enlarge such works. These provisions of the two last mentioned chapters well as all other provisions thereof which are intended to empower the respective companies to divert the waters or occupy the bed of any river, are, in the opinion of the undersigned, ultra vires of the provincial legislature so far as they relate to rivers which have been declared by the British North America Act to be part of the property of Canada, parliament having the sole power to legislate concerning the same. Having regard, however, to other provisions which are unobjectionable, the undersigned does not deem it advisable to recommend the disallowance of either of these statutes. Any question which may be raised as to their validity may conveniently be left to be determined by the courts.

The undersigned, therefore, recommends that the several acts mentioned in this report be left to their operation. The undersigned further recommends that, if this report be approved, a copy of the same be sent to the Lieutenant-Governor of the province, for his information.

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. THOMPSON,
Minister of Justice.

(Signed) J. W. THOMPSON,
Minister of Justice.

WORLD'S FAIR PHOTOGRAPHS.

St. Louis, Mo., March 5.—In the U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, suit has been brought by Charles D. Arnoult, official photographer of the World's Fair, for \$500,000 damages against publisher N. D. Thompson and the C. B. Woodward printing company. The plaintiff alleges that the defendants have wrongfully used the photographic views taken by him of the World's Fair building exhibits and have published and circulated the same in conjunction with the sale of many newspapers throughout the United States, and that these views are the property of and are copyrighted by the World's Exposition and their use is charged as an infringement of the rights of the plaintiff. An injunction was asked to restrain the future alleged illegal publication of these photographs.

MONTREAL MATTERS.

MONTREAL, March 5.—Mr. Huddart, of the Canadian-Australian line, who has been through the country working up interest among commercial bodies, leaves for England to-morrow, from whence he will proceed to Australia. Mr. Sweet, manager of the Windsor hotel here, has accepted the management of the Brunswick in New York. This was one of the biggest settling days of the year. Several of the large wholesale houses had over \$50,000 each coming in. Payments, according to the bankers, were not altogether satisfactory in the country. They were slow, but reports showed the general business was in a satisfactory state, and that signs of improvement were visible.

CONFESSED MURDERESS.

BUFFALO, March 5.—Laura Fay, the young woman taken to the police station last night, tells this story: About four years ago, she says, she lived with her parents at Oil City, Pa., and became engaged to a man named Chase. Her younger sister, a girl of 15, was also in love with Chase, and endeavored to break off the betrothal. Finally her love turned to hate, and one night in June she gave him a dose of poison from which he died. His death had been attributed to natural causes. Miss Fay came to Buffalo from Oil City.

PEACE AT LAST.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Secretary Herbert received the following from Commodore Longmeyer to-day: "La Union, Salvador, March 4.—Amapala, Honduras, March 3.—Three commissioners were on board the Reager this morning and agreed upon the following treaty of peace: 'Unconditional guarantee of Villala's force and to all non-combatants; his civil and military acts legalized, recognize the existing government, and he will muster forces out to-morrow. Bonilla's army will enter Amapala to-morrow.'"

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Fourth Session of the Sixth Parliament.

TWENTY-NINTH DAY.

MONDAY, March 5, 1894.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock.

Prayers by Rt. Rev. Bishop Percin.

NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENTS.

MR. FURBER moved: Whereas the navigation of the Nikomeki, Serpentine and Campbell rivers is at present much impeded by log jams and by short curves, all of which could be removed at a comparatively slight cost; and whereas the Dominion Government have already expended different sums on the Nikomeki and Serpentine, with great advantage to these streams and a very small additional expenditure would largely extend the navigable portion of them; and whereas the clearing out of the navigable portion of the Campbell river would enable the settlers on the upper part of the stream to utilize the river for necessary drainage and also provide an outlet for timber, of which there is a large supply belonging to the Dominion Government. Be it therefore resolved that a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor praying him to urge upon the Dominion Government the necessity of taking steps to carry out these suggested improvements.

Motion agreed to.

REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The house went into committee of the whole on the redistribution bill, Mr. Martin in the chair.

HON. MR. BEAVER, on clause 2, asked what is the necessity for 33 members in a province with a white population of 65,000. He had never been in favor of increasing the representation to that number, which only made more members for the government to square.

HON. MR. DAVIE—How many would the hon. gentleman propose to have?

HON. MR. BEAVER—I am not the government.

HON. MR. DAVIE pointed out that to have responsible government in the province it is necessary to have an independent legislature, in which a proportion of members of the government shall be so great that they will have the mastery over the legislature, as would practically be the case if there were only 25 or 27 members as formerly.

One of the greatest constitutional minds in Canada, the late Sir John Macdonald, had said that responsible government could not be carried on in British Columbia until the representation was increased from 25 as it then was. He considered that to maintain the number as at present is in the best interests of the province, and that those who advocate a reduction aim a blow at responsible government and seek to place the legislature at the mercy of the executive.

While this would not be a very serious affair at present, the time might come when a less scrupulous executive would be in power, and the disastrous effect of the change would then be felt.

MR. BEAVER argued in favor of having "five or six thousand dollars worth of members in the house," and stated that he knew of no other way in which this bill could be amended. In fact he favored bringing in a new bill altogether.

HON. MR. BEAVER denied that the province really has responsible government, and as an illustration held that in this very bill, for instance, the executive—which under responsible government should have formulated a policy and submitted it to the house—had no policy at all until the members of the legislature had come here and met in private in the hon. secretary's department to help them frame the bill. He agreed with Mr. Brown that the measure now under consideration is so defective that it is impossible to amend it. As to the demand that he should state the proper number of members, it would be time enough for him to propose when he was called in, and he thought that if the attorney-general would ask his brother he would find out that that is the correct principle for a physician.

MR. HUNTER said since Dr. Davie had been mentioned, he might say that the doctor would never be found hanging round where there was supposed to be a patient, and suggesting to everyone who he could get to listen to him that the treatment that patient was receiving was altogether wrong, or if by any chance he felt sure that it expressed such an opinion he felt sure that it expressed the proper treatment he would say so in an instant. He wished to point out a striking inconsistency in the two speeches which the hon. leader of the opposition had made on this bill. In the first he said it is a most wonderful production seeing that three years have been spent upon it, but just now he had told the house that the bill had been made up since the meeting of the legislature.

HON. MR. DAVIE said with reference to the illustration used by the leader of the opposition, it seemed to him that the government are in this instance in the position of the physician in chief, and that the members of the legislature on both sides are the consulting physicians. It seemed rather extraordinary thing that when one of these consulting physicians is called upon, he should refuse his advice—after he had accepted his retaining fee of \$500.

HON. MR. BEAVER replied that the expression he had used, that it would be time enough for him to prescribe when he was called in, originated with Sir Robert Peel under similar circumstances. He held that the Premier is the physician in chief and that the other members of the executive are the consulting staff. He felt it would be useless to offer any amendments as the members on the other side had already agreed to support the measure and he thought it so irrespective of what might be said.

MR. SWORD moved an amendment providing for two members instead of one, and each of the four ridings into which Westminster district is proposed to be divided.

THE CHAIRMAN, objection having been taken, ruled the amendment out of order on the ground that it proposed to increase the representation above the number of 33, which could not be done by a private member. This decision was appealed to the speaker.

THE SPEAKER ruled that the house having adopted the principle of 33 members, before referring the bill to committee, it was not in order now to increase the representation as proposed.

MR. BEAVER spoke against giving Victoria four members while Westminster has only one.

MR. SEMLIN protested that the representation of Yale is not adequately provided for, as compared with other districts.

HON. MR. VERNON pointed out that, taking the interests of the province as a whole, the best possible thing had been done for Yale that could be done without increasing the total representation.

MR. BEAVER repeated the objection urged that equal representation is not given to all the divisions of the province.

HON. MR. DAVIE said he must admit that he had been unable to follow the argument made by Mr. Brown, the other night and now followed up, about the two ridings and the old-Cascade and the island divisions, but he was struck by the fact that while the gentleman condemned the government for

incidentally recognizing the two natural divisions caused by the Gulf of Georgia, he himself wished to create other artificial divisions of trans-Cascade and cis-Cascade. He had no complaint, it appeared, because, as he said, the trans-Cascade country is to have one member for every 3,000 of population, against one for every 3,000 in the cis-Cascade district, as he calls the place where he lives; but he complains that Vancouver Island is to have one member for every 2,000. The only deduction that could be made from his remarks was that the people who live on Vancouver Island should be punished by having only one member for every 3,000 of white population, or only nine members altogether. He showed how impossible it would be to deal with the representation upon purely mathematical principles; and that the changes made were generally recognized as being in the interest of the people, and from a number of people he had never met and did not know personally, congratulating the government upon the bill.

MR. BEAVER spoke in opposition to the division of Lillooet—now having two members—into two ridings, with one member for each, holding that the district would be sufficiently represented by one member.

MR. STODARD declared that when Mr. Brown was in Lillooet last summer he did not talk in this way. (Applause.) Then he said he was quite satisfied with the representation of Lillooet and other outlying districts, and that they were not at all over-represented.

MR. SMITH confirmed what had just been said by his colleague from Lillooet, as to Mr. Brown's utterances when in that constituency. He held that the outlying districts are fully entitled to the representation they are allowed.

MR. BEAVER claimed that his remarks in Lillooet had been misquoted by the members of that constituency.

MR. SWORD moved to amend the bill so as to provide that Lillooet shall have only one member.

MR. KITCHEN, coming in after the question had been put, claimed the right to speak, protesting against the amendment as he thought that Lillooet should have two ridings to give it a voice.

HON. MR. DAVIE—You're in a bad fix! (Laughter.)

MR. KITCHEN—No, I'm in no fix at all.

A VOICE—You are looking for a constituency. (Laughter.)

MR. KITCHEN protested that he is not looking for a constituency and that he has no intention of looking for one outside of where he resides.

MR. SEMLIN suggested that the amendment should be withdrawn.

A VOICE—Oh no, I'll put you on record here. (Laughter.)

The amendment was put and lost only by a majority of one.

With respect to West Kootenay an important amendment was made, this being, as Mr. Davie stated at the instigation of Mr. Kellie, the present representative. The effect of the amendment is to better equalize the two ridings to be created, a considerable territory being taken from the south and added to the north riding. This includes the Lower Arrow Lake country, below the 50th parallel, and the Columbia river territory to the boundary. Among the settlements thus transposed are the Trail Creek mining camp, the town of Robson and the ranches of Fire Valley and Trout Creek.

On the clause respecting Cariboo, and reducing the representation from three to two members, Dr. Watt and Mr. Rogers were expressing regret at the necessity for the reduction but acknowledging the justice of it.

MR. MCKENZIE moved to amend the clauses relating to South Victoria and Equilateral districts, so that they should form one constituency. The hon. gentleman's motion, however, he found to be out of order, and after the committee had waited for some time for him to fix it, Mr. Sword wrote out another but simpler one to the same effect, and moved it.

MR. KERRIS spoke in justification of the representation allowed to his district, which he showed contrasted very favorably, in the matter of the revenue yielded, with those in the Westminster district.

At six o'clock the house rose.

After Recess.

HON. MR. VERNON spoke in opposition to the amendment. He dwelt upon the greater relative claim of the population of Victoria and Equilateral districts to representation, and the ground that the residents in these districts have made their homes permanently here, while in other districts the population is more or less shifting, as for instance in those including the mining and logging camps. He thought the amendment proposed a great injustice to these districts, whose population has increased enormously since Confederation and shows every indication of a steady permanent increase. He pointed out that Equilateral particularly is on the eve of very important developments which it is the duty of the house to take into consideration.

MR. BEAVER spoke against the amendment, on the ground that it would be a useless task to attempt to improve the bill in this fashion.

The amendment was put and lost.

The name of the "Cowichan electoral district" was on motion of Hon. Mr. Davie altered to the "Cowichan and Alberni electoral district," after a protest from Hon. Mr. Beaver that the change is senseless.

With respect to the provision for the appointment of collector of votes, Hon. Mr. Davie explained the necessity for some better system than the present one of collector voters, in order to prevent the importation of absentees whose names continue on the rolls, the duplication of names and duplicate voting and similar abuses which have occurred in the past. The precautions taken are such as to make it as near as possible certain that no person entitled to it shall have his name upon the list, that no name shall be repeated, and that everyone entitled to a vote may by a simple process make sure that his name is on the roll.

The clause providing for the making up of the voting list and other giving effect to the act, were adopted with minor amendments suggested by members on both sides. The penalties for making wilfully false statements in respect of application to be placed upon the list, were at the solidification of the opposition reduced to a fine of not less than \$25, and not more than \$100, and two months imprisonment, in place of \$50 and six months, as originally provided.

The committee then rose and reported progress.

SCHOOL ACT.

HON. COL. BAKER introduced a bill to amend the public school act.

Bill read a first time.

The house adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

THIRTIETH DAY.

TUESDAY, March 6, 1894.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 p.m.

MR. BEAVER presented a return respecting timber royalties.

PETITION.

MR. KITCHEN presented a petition against the Street-cleaning and drainage bill.

Read and received.

PHARMACY ACT.

MR. KERRIS asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the pharmacy act.

Read a first time; second reading on Thursday.

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

HON. MR. TURNER introduced the two bills below stated, which were read a first time and set for second reading on Thursday.

An act for the encouragement of dairying.

An act for the extermination of noxious weeds.

REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

The house again went into committee on the redistribution bill, Mr. Croft in the chair.

On section 21, which provides that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make any alterations or additions necessary to give effect to the act, Hon. Mr. Beaver and the chairman named the leader of the opposition, but Mr. Brown declared that he had been on the floor "half an hour" before Mr. Beaver rose, and the latter thereupon sat down. Mr. Brown then moved to strike out several portions of the clause to limit his application. Hon. Mr. Beaver, when his time came, suggested to strike out the whole clause, as he considered that it opened the door to dangerous abuses, giving the executive power to make or repeal laws.

HON. MR. DAVIE said it seemed a poor argument to use, that the executive should not be given authority because this might be abused. He pointed out the necessity of such an enactment, to provide against the contingency that any of the innumerable provisions that might be found absolutely necessary had been overlooked, and to ensure that the effect intended should be given with the act. When in 1890 a far more drastic clause for the same purpose was before the house objection was made to it on precisely similar grounds, but since its adoption there had not been even a suggestion that the government had abused the power given them. The clause in the act of 1890 had not drafted without any particular precedent, but in the present instance he had had for a precedent the clause in the New South Wales act, which had been practically copied.

The amendment was lost after further discussion and the clause was agreed to.

The committee reported the bill complete with amendments, Hon. Mr. Davie having stated that certain suggested changes would be dealt with on the motion to adopt the report.

THREE FORKS TOWNSHIP.

HON. MR. VERNON moved the second reading of the bill to authorize the crown grant of the township of Three Forks. He explained the circumstances, which were that the two gentlemen mentioned in the bill had taken up their residence on the land in June 1892, and the two years' residence required to entitle them to their pre-emption title will be up in June next. In the meantime, in consequence of the land having become valuable as a township, a number of people have squatted upon the claim and have erected buildings of various kinds upon it, without being able to obtain title under the pre-emptors' time is the inconvenience now felt. It was proposed to have an act passed to enable the crown grant to issue a few months earlier than it could in the regular process, provided the other requirements of the land act have been complied with. He stated that there had been some objections made by other parties, but these had since been withdrawn, and a large portion had been presented in favor of the bill, as in the best interests of West Kootenay.

HON. MR. BEAVER opposed the bill as a proposition to make the act less stringent for the speculator than for the settler. He thought the matter might better have been dealt with in a private bill, so that the private bills committee might have made an inquiry and ascertained facts which perhaps had been overlooked in moving the second reading.

HON. MR. DAVIE said he would thoroughly agree with the leader of the opposition if only the persons who had pre-empted the land had to be considered, but the interests of the people—nearly a hundred he believed—had squatted upon this land since it had been lawfully become a centre, had to be also taken into consideration. One by one the objections made to this bill had been withdrawn, and the general desire now appeared to be that the grant should issue. Personally he should be dissatisfied to him, but he thought that under the circumstances he should be passed, and he did not think that any particular principle would be invaded by so doing.

HON. MR. BEAVER pointed out that the pre-emptors had no right to pretend to part with any rights with respect to it until the crown grant had issued, and therefore that the legislature had nothing to do with the land of people who had squatted there.

HON. MR. VERNON said it was to assist the people who had already built to get the title to the lots so occupied, that the bill was proposed.

MR. SEMLIN opposed the bill, because he considered it an unnecessary departure from the land laws, and that the parties interested should have applied in the regular way, with the proper notice, for a private bill. He thought it much better to let the law take its course.

MR. SWORD spoke to the same effect, and moved in amendment that the bill be referred for report to a select committee, to consist of Messrs. Hunter, Eberts, Anderson, Brown and Kitchin.

HON. MR. DAVIE thought it would be little use to refer the matter to a committee, but he moved the adjournment of the debate in order that the petition on the subject might be printed and distributed.

Motion agreed to.

NAKUSP AND SLOCAN RAILWAY.

The house went into committee of the whole, Mr. Croft in the chair, to consider the message of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, with the bill intitled "An act respecting the Nakusp & Slocan railway."

HON. MR. DAVIE first announcing that some further papers, omitted by inadvertence from the report, would be brought down as soon as printed.

An explanation of the bill was urged by the opposition, and Mr. Brown stated that he knew nine-tenths of the people of the country to be opposed to the bill.

HON. MR. DAVIE said he did not see how this information, but even if it is correct, he felt satisfied that when the bill came to be explained nine-tenths of the people would be in its favor, for it could be shown to be a bill eminently in the interests of the country. He knew that the opposition had built great hopes upon which they had based, as upon seven or eight others which they had hoped to use as a means to embarrass the government; and when their efforts on the redistribution bill failed they fell back upon this one. They were, however, doomed to disappointment, as would become evident when in the proper course the measure came to be explained. He

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did not think that this was the time to do so, for as he had frequently contended the proper place to explain a bill is in the house rather than in committee—a subordinate place, but he asked the committee to report the bill, so that it might be placed upon the orders of the day. Then, when it came up for second reading, he would come upon a full explanation, which he felt sure would prove satisfactory to the house and to the public.

After further discussion the committee rose and reported the bill, which was read a first time; second reading on Friday.

SCHOOL ACT.

HON. COL. BAKER moved the second reading of the school bill. He pointed out that this provides that the revenue tax for the past year, instead of for the current year, must be paid to enable a man to vote for the election of school trustees; and also for the removal of trustees in consequence of certain misdemeanors or other circumstances.

HON. MR. BEAVER remarked that the school act requires very general amending; in fact that it should be wiped out and commenced again.

Bill read a second time.

GREAT WESTERN TELEGRAPH BILL.

On consideration of the report from committee of the whole on the Great Western Telegraph bill, Mr. Eberts moved to strike out the word "Nanaimo" in the third line, and to insert in lieu thereof the following words: "Victoria to the city of Nanaimo; thence."

HON. MR. BEAVER raised the point of order that this amendment was in excess of what was asked for in the petition for the bill and to the statement in the preamble, which referred only to a line of cable to Nanaimo.

MR. EBERTS hoped the leader of the opposition would insist upon his point of order, for he thought the people of Victoria would be very glad to see the line extended to this place, whether or not this particular motion had been quite regularly moved.

The Speaker remarked that if not quite in order such motions had been made for twenty-five years