

ENFORCE ACT

Victoria, Feb. 11.—Press Gallery, Legislative Assembly.—In passing the act to amend the Railway Assessment, the government of British Columbia has declared itself as opposed to the tradition of all the older legislatures, which have demanded and enforced the demand to have before them, all the information relating to any bill presented to it of that kind.

Despite the efforts of Mr. Henderson and the leader of the opposition, the latter having a motion directly disapproving of the placing of power to disallow taxation in the hands of the lieutenant-governor-in-council, and of the efforts of Mr. Oliver, Mr. Munroe and others, the government persisted in its original intention of taking the power of disallowance away from the house and the representatives of the people.

The division on Mr. Henderson's motion aimed to prevent the employment of persons of Oriental birth or extraction, in construction or, during the life of the exemption, was negatived by 22 to 14, Messrs. Bowser and Hall, Ross and Englewood having voted with the day.

The motion of the opposition leader was negatived by the same vote.

An incident of the session was the election of the lieutenant-governor to give his assent to the ten acts which have been passed since the assembling of the house, namely: Immigration, Census, Purchase, Sale and Transfer of Goods in Bulk, Summary Jurisdiction, Farmers' Institutes, Revenue, Greenwood City Waterworks, Coal Tax, Master and Servant Amendment, Victoria Cemetery, and Incorporating the City of Chilliwack.

In the course of the debate on the Railway Assessment Act, Messrs. Oliver and Hawthorthwaite cited instances of the premier, when in opposition, acting in direct opposition to the course he now advocated and cast much doubt on his protestations, the latter being one in the course of the debate, of being the friend of the working men. Much of the argument used had been presented before to the house on the previous debates on the same measure.

Reference was made by Mr. Henderson to the memorable strike of trackmen on the Canadian Pacific railway, which furnished the premier another opportunity of expressing his sympathy with labor. Mr. Henderson having referred to the newspaper comment on the concessions to the Grand Trunk Pacific, the latter replied that the concessions were for good and valuable considerations in the interests of the people.

Mr. Oliver remarked that was just what the opposition had been trying to get from the premier—as to what the concessions consisted of.

In the course of the debate, the Kalen Port Rupert bargain was fully used, Oliver, as in the past, being in the condemnation of the much of arrangement, which the government as strongly defended.

The premier having stated that the dominion government had given that railway a patent for the whole thing for nothing, Mr. Oliver remarked that the government did not know that.

The whole question was gone into and it is anticipated when the terms of arrangement between the Grand Trunk Pacific and the government are disclosed a battle royal will take place, similar to those in previous sessions, when the government's relations with the Grand Trunk Pacific furnished the material for such heated debates.

Victoria, Feb. 11.—His honor the lieutenant-governor came down to the house this afternoon and gave the royal assent to the bills which have so far passed the house. These include the requested Natal and to which was withheld last year. Preparations have been completed to put the act into force immediately so that now all immigrants landing in British Columbia will have to submit to an educational test.

(Special to The Daily News)

Victoria, Feb. 12.—Press Gallery, Legislative Assembly.—After a very short debate on the second reading of one of the private bills before it, the Eastern B. C. Railway bill, the assembly occupied itself today with the University act mainly, the discussion which took place being largely inaudible in the press gallery. Fifty clauses were got through and some minor amendments introduced, mainly on motions of Mr. Henderson, who had a long list on the order paper. The government consented to allow Clause 10 to stand on its own provision, that the first convocation shall consist of all graduates of any university in his majesty's dominions actually residing in the province for two years, will probably be read to meet with the wishes of members of the committee, who desire domestic, British, or foreign universities substituted. Mr. Henderson proposed new sections which provide for no appointee, other than the president of the board of control, being eligible to be a member of that board of education department, no principal or teacher in any high school and no member of the executive council during his term of office to become members of the board of control, understood to have for their aim the prevention of political control of the institution, bringing about the same state of things as has been found at other universities in the province and to which was a mixture of education and politics. The government will accept the amendments.

The last word on immigration has evidently not been said by the member for Nanaimo, who has given notice of a resolution in which he recites that a conflict of interests has arisen between the province and the dominion in respect to Oriental immigration, refers to the Anglo-Japanese treaty endorsed by the dominion government, a section of which provides that the subject of two contracting parties shall have full liberty to enter, travel or reside in any part of the dominion of the other, with full protection of person and property, and that immigration have been uniformly disallowed by the dominion, that the existing condition will injure the various industries referred to and endanger the good understanding that has existed between

the people of Japan and the people of this province and asking, therefore, the house to resolve that it will memorialize the imperial government through the colonial secretary to appoint a royal commission to fully enquire into all the circumstances in connection with these matters.

This is, of course, the indirect and sentimental way of opening up the whole question and if successful will be another British Columbia question "taken to the foot of the throne."

At the close of the session the finance minister brought down by message a further amendment to the Railway Assessment act of 1907, which fixes the rate of taxation at one per cent of the assessed value and makes the provision of the act apply to 1907, as well as 1908 and the years subsequent to the present.

The resolution of Mr. Hawthorthwaite, relating to breaches of law for the protection of workers underground, which has stood on the order papers for several days, was passed over at the request of the premier.

(Special to The Daily News)

Victoria, Feb. 12.—Press Gallery, House of Assembly.—The assembly spent nearly the whole of the afternoon in committee on the bill for the protection of persons employed in factories, which it proceeded to deal immediately.

Leave to introduce a bill to amend the Factories Act and another to establish a general eight hour day had been given and a few questions answered.

Several long motions stood over at the request of Mr. Henderson because of the absence of the attorney general. Next week promises a great crop of resolutions and motions of which no notice has been given unless the resolutions of the estimates should prove greater than those of debate.

The committee on railways reported a preamble of the Vancouver & Nicola Railway bill.

In committee a discussion arose as to several clauses of the Eight Hour act, especially as to whether it would apply to canneries. Mr. Brewster pointed out that the schedule did not specify canneries, and Mr. McPhillips replying that unless set forth in the list the act would not apply. It did not touch canneries. Mr. Hawthorthwaite then proposed to amend the schedule by inserting them, but afterwards withdrew the amendment.

Mr. Oliver advanced the opinion that the section under discussion must necessarily include canneries as it spoke of the manufacturing of any article. He did not think there was any exception, where mechanical means were employed.

Mr. McPhillips believed that would not be the construction of the court. The best authorities have been consulted in framing the act.

Mr. Brewster moved to insert an amendment that the act should not apply to salmon canneries for the reason that the industry is in a different position to any other in the province. Preparation for months was made for the act and it would be impossible to comply with it. To tie them down to an eight hour day, as proposed in the bill, would put them out of business. The reason for the amendment was that the industry was principally Indians, who do not attend schools and make a big harvest while the work lasted.

Mr. Oliver pointed out that the effect of the amendment would be to absolve salmon canneries from the operation of the act.

Mr. Brewster suggested there might be some exception made later in the act to meet the case of the canneries.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite said the position was that the act was intended for the honorable members clearly shown. It was the same old story, he supposed, frightened away capital, a picture of blue ruin. The act in no manner with the employment of men to any extent. It simply applied to that of women and children and the honorable members were trying to prevent it.

The reason for the amendment was that the canneries were largely operated by Indians, was the very reason for their protection as helpless wards of the state. He hoped the house would vote for the resolution.

The member for Cowichan, Mr. Haywood, here raised a laugh by asking the honorable member from Alberni if he ever heard of an Indian woman asking to be protected.

Mr. McPhillips declared it was the duty of parliament to regulate the employment of women and children and it was possible to do its duty to the industry independent of that. After some further discussion, the amendment was withdrawn. Mr. McPhillips pointing out that if the canneries were singled out it would make a difference to the operation of the act.

On Clause 2, Section 2, applying to cases where no power is used and the only persons employed are members of the family, these are excepted from the operation of the act, Oliver asked why the exception. Mr. McPhillips replied, the legislation of other countries had gone no further and quoted the Manitoba act. The act was parental in character and was intended to protect women and children employed in factories.

Mr. Oliver and the leader of the opposition then objected to the provision that the lieutenant-governor in council to proclaim certain premises as removed from the schedule or list of factories coming under the act, asking why it was in the hands of the government. Mr. McPhillips did not think it would lead to harm being done. The act is curious in the respect that while it provides that no child or children in any factory in Section 4, in Section 7 it speaks of a child employed in a factory. These two sections could probably be amended to make the consistent. "Child" under the act means a boy under 14 and a girl under fifteen; "woman," from 15 upwards.

During the discussion Mr. Hawthorthwaite said that the laundrymen had sent a deputation asking that as far as their business was concerned they should be allowed to employ women and children. He pointed out that as to hours of work and in other ways they

were brought into competition with Chinese laundries, where the men work 12 to 16 hours a day, living in a manner which white people would not consider for a moment. It had been suggested the laundrymen might be exempted in some way because of this competition as to the hours of labor or else prevent the Chinese working such long hours.

There was another reason why the Chinese laundries should be brought under the provisions of the act, that relating to sanitary conditions, people sending their clothes there were running great risks. He moved an amendment to that effect. Finally the section stood without amendment so as to give the members an opportunity of further considering it.

Later Mr. Henderson raised the question of the jurisdiction of the province under the rules of the legislature to pass such an act, alleging the fact that it was under the head of trades and labor, whereupon Hawthorthwaite accused him of trying to sidetrack the bill. He held the objection of the bill was to regulate the hours and conditions of work in factories. A number of bills had passed the house with the same objects without objection.

Mr. McPhillips pointed out the honorable member for Yale knew the power to legislate as to trade and commerce was expressly reserved to the dominion by the British North America act. This bill does not refer to trades. Finally the committee rose. Mr. Speaker took his seat, and after consideration, the amendment had been made with the West Kootenay Power and Light company, considered the bill up to Section 63 and rose, to sit again at next sitting.

(Special to The Daily News)

Victoria, Feb. 12.—The conservative members of the local house, guests at the Empress hotel, this evening entertained their confreres to dinner. During the evening the conversation was on the painting of himself was made to premier McBride.

Winnipeg's FINANCES

SECRET SESSION OF COUNCIL ON OVERDRAFT

DISASTROUS LIQUIDATION OF SUPPLY COMPANY

Winnipeg, Feb. 12.—A secret meeting of the city council was held today for the purpose of discussing the civic financial condition of the city.

The meeting was held in the city hall, the doors being closed to the public. The council was informed that the city's financial condition was such that it was necessary to take immediate action.

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MAKES TERMS

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The fire, water and light committee recommended that the city engineer be allowed to employ an additional fireman, and that the chief's suggestions as to the fire alarm be adopted. As to the retooling of the hall, that question was referred to the board.

Mayor Taylor reported on a special meeting held with himself, the chairman of the board of works, Ald. Procter, and Ald. Bastedo, on the subject of the city's finances, which was held on the 10th inst. The mayor stated that the city's financial condition was such that it was necessary to take immediate action.

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