

Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1889.

M.R. ROBSON'S MISSION.

Papers relating to the mission of the Hon. Mr. Robson to Ottawa in October, 1888, were laid on the table of the Assembly yesterday. From these papers it appears that Mr. Robson was eminently successful. He had numerous interviews with the members of the Dominion Government...

It is evident that if the Government is open to outside influence it will, instead of altering and simplifying the machinery of the present Franchise act, condemn it altogether, and replace by a new system which, though not essentially different, does the same work in a more direct and a much cheaper process.

A SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT.

The indications at this moment are that the Samoa difficulty will be quietly and amicably settled. Germany seems disposed to admit that its officials have gone too far, and is evidently smoothing the way for an easy descent. This is, no doubt, owing to the firm stand taken by the United States. Of course Germany is not afraid of the United States. It is very strong both from a military and a naval point of view, and the United States, whatever its capabilities may be, is not fighting trim just now. But it does not suit Germany to make an enemy of the American nation.

The Samoa Islands, although not by any means important from any point of view. Until this difficulty with Germany arose very few had heard of them since they left school. They are known on the old maps as "Navigator Islands," and look like insignificant specks on the Pacific Ocean. And that is what they really are comparatively. The area of the whole group is not more than a thousand square miles, and they are quite thickly inhabited, there being on them about 37,000 souls.

It is clear that by the settlement arrived at the province has been saved from uncertain and expensive litigation, and has gained a substantial addition to the revenue. Mr. Robson's recommendations with respect to industrial schools were heard with respectful attention. Although the government undertakes to establish only four at present, it is not unlikely that the number will be increased in the not distant future.

The Provincial Secretary asked for the appointment of court judges for Kamloops, New Westminster, Nanaimo and Victoria, suggesting that the salary should not be less than \$2,400 a year from the first. The report recommends that three county judges be appointed for the present, their salaries being on the same terms as in the other provinces—these are New Westminster, Nanaimo and Kamloops.

The Minister of the Interior recommends that the proposals to exchange the railway belt for land in the Peace River district be not taken into consideration, "as it does not appear that such consideration would serve any useful purpose so long as the right to the minerals in the railway belt is unsettled."

CONSERVATIVE OPINION.

Two of the staunchest Conservative newspapers in the Dominion take the ground that if there is to be any change in the Dominion Franchise law it should be the abolition of property qualifications and the establishment of manhood suffrage. The franchise, they contend, has been made wide that the difference between it and manhood suffrage is almost nominal. The answer would be the greater financial by making the franchise actually what it virtually is already, and no party and no class would be politically the loser.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Third Session of the Fifth Parliament. SECOND DAY. TUESDAY, Feb. 5, 1889.

Mr. Speaker Pooley took the chair at 2:10 o'clock, p.m. Prayers were said by the Ven. Archdeacon Scribner.

Mr. Orr presented petitions from the inhabitants of Surrey. One from settlers of Howe Sound praying that a trail be cut.

ADDRESS TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL. Mr. Speaker said that in pursuance of instructions from the last session he had forwarded an address to the late Governor-General, Lord Lansdowne, and in reply had received the following autograph letter:

LANSDOWNE HOUSE, Berkeley Square, London, W., August 2nd, 1888. Sir, I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 28th inst. regarding the proposed revision of the Dominion Franchise Act.

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THE SPEECH TO THE HOUSE.

The Hon. the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. This letter had been forwarded to him in an envelope covered by an official dispatch from the Secretary of State.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Robson, the reply of Lord Lansdowne was ordered to be incorporated in the minutes of the House. THE SPEECH TO THE HOUSE. Mr. Nason, the junior member for Cariboo, rose to move the reply to the speech from the throne, and said: Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to move the reply to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's address, seconded by Mr. Tolmie.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES. This attack of the opposition yesterday was of a very weak character. They in no case made a point. The policy of the government on several questions was mildly censured, the chief object of the opposition leader and his adherents being directed against the time-honored practice of holding caucuses of government supporters, which they claimed was a blot upon the government.

Mr. Tolmie, the junior member for Victoria, rose to second the resolution. Mr. Speaker, said he is with much pleasure complying with the request made by the junior member for Cariboo. There are one or two questions that I would like to speak about. I desire to refer to the question of the railway. The government has agreed to carry out a large part of the railway. I am informed that the judges have in several instances refused to pass sentence on juveniles criminals who were sent to the islands to be placed in connection with hardened criminals, and who should not be allowed to mingle, unpunished, with the innocent.

department of railways, as the railway was upon them. But he learned later that the hon. chief commissioner had visited Manitoba to dispose of a band of cattle. All that the province had secured from this remarkable mission was the disposal of a band of cattle, and the establishment of a post office in the territory. The present government claimed that the prosperity of the province was altogether due to them. This was somewhat remarkable, as it was hardly possible to be responsible for the good results of the year, or the results achieved from the salmon hatchery. He, with others, had heard that the management of the hatchery was not a success, and that the money voted last year, for the establishment of test works, and the trust that they would have more about it later on. The statement regarding the increase of revenue was vague, and misleading. He had always understood that it was no use in sending a member of the house to go on a mission, because he would not be admitted to the government caucus, and that where the real work was done. He had always understood that if the present secret system was followed they would never have good government.

Mr. Robson, continuing, they passed an order in council, and there is no danger of any kind of prohibition violating their agreement. Mr. Beaven—How about the railway belt? Mr. Robson, continuing, they passed an order in council, and there is no danger of any kind of prohibition violating their agreement.

Mr. Beaven—That a respectful address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor requesting him to cause to be sent down to this House copies of all orders in council and correspondence between the Dominion and Provincial Governments with reference to the disallowance or otherwise of the Statute of 1888.

and beans every day in the week, but the other varied the bill by giving bacon and beans one day and the next beans and bacon, thus relieving the monotony of the farmer. The speech of the present year was the bacon and beans of the year and beans and bacon of the year, and the quality of those of the present year.

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in fully a month before the Skeena trouble. Mr. Robson, proceeding, said that he was sorry that his hon. friend had not allowed him to proceed. He did not for a moment intend to impute cowardice to his hon. friend, but was about to remark that having retired from active service he could look upon matters more dispassionately and form a more reliable and accurate opinion. He thought it was very unfair to impute that the government sent "C" Battery up to be annihilated.

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statements. (Loud laughter and remarks of "What's the laugh?") Mr. Davie had not the pleasure of listening to the remarks of the leader of the opposition, having come in only in time to hear his last remark directed against the present session of this House.

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regulations, if any, that have been made by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. Hon. Mr. Davie—to ask leave to introduce a bill entitled "An Act respecting Summary Proceedings Before Justices of the Peace."

Table: BALANCE SHEET OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. As Per Treasury Accounts, for the Year Ended 30th June, 1888.

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