

THE LIGHTING OF THE CITY.

The complaints about the way in which the city is lighted have been many and various. The answer to the complaints was that the Corporation was doing the best it could with the means at its disposal. The electric light plant, it was alleged, was defective, and there was not power enough to give the city all the light it needed. Some time ago the Corporation applied for authority to raise money, enough to procure better machinery, to increase the number of lights, and to have them better distributed; but the ratepayers refused to give the authorization. This was not because the city did not require more and better lights, or because the ratepayers disapproved of the Corporation taking the business of lighting the city into its own hands, but because they thought that the Corporation, at that particular time, was going too fast and required a sharp check.

But the matter has since then been fully discussed. It is now generally believed that it is most economical and most satisfactory for the city to supply itself with light, and that the plant now in use is not sufficiently powerful, and not of the right kind to produce the results required. We believe, too, that the ratepayers have confidence in the present Council, and are prepared to place the business of renewing the plant and reorganizing the service in their hands. If what some of those who have examined the machinery in the city power house say is true, the Corporation will not only give the city more light, but save money, by setting aside the part of the present machinery which is both inefficient and wasteful, and replacing it by machinery that is more powerful, better constructed and less expensive to run. If the ratepayers decide that the city should continue to supply itself with light, and that to do this new plant must be procured, the details will have to be left to the discretion of the Council. The old saying: "Too many cooks spoil the broth," holds good in this matter as well as in most others. The ratepayers must necessarily place confidence in the discretion and the integrity of the Mayor and Council. These latter will, no doubt, be guided by the best professional advice obtainable. It will not do for them to be in this business of lighting the city in the same way as a former Council did with selecting a sewer system and constructing the sewers. There are no heaven-born electricians any more than there are heaven-born sanitary engineers. Men who have had no training and no experience in the work of lighting a city by electricity should not take upon themselves to dictate to practical electricians who understand their business. If they do, they will be sure to make a mess of it, and to cause loss of both time and money. The Corporation has, we believe, discretion enough to put the carrying out of the practical part of the business to good men, and to trust them after they are employed. If this is done, the city will be sure to be well lighted, and the citizens will get the worth of their money.

We trust that the subject will be fully and fairly discussed between now and election day. If this is done, we have no doubt that the great majority of the ratepayers will come to the conclusion that one of the reforms that the city urgently requires is better street lighting, and that the best way to effect this reform is for the city to take the work in hand. When this conclusion is arrived at, the passage of the by-law by a sweeping majority will follow as a matter of course.

IN A NEW CHARACTER.

The British Government appeared in court, not long since, in an entirely new character. It was brought there as an inventor, or rather, as a pretended inventor who had poked the real inventor's brains and had made an unfair use of the knowledge it had obtained of his processes. This was not a very pleasant or a very dignified position for a respectable government to occupy.

The Government had tried to procure a high explosive that would answer its purposes. It assigned to the Explosives Committee the duty of selecting the one it required. That Committee examined and tried all the explosives devised by all the inventors, but could not find one that exactly suited them. The explosives examined had all defects, more or less serious.

The scientific members of the Committee then set about inventing a powder, or explosive, which would be free from the faults of those that they had investigated, and "ordite" was the result of their labors. When the qualities of this new powder were made known, Nobel's Explosives Company declared that ordite was nothing but a form of "ballistite," a powder for which they had taken out a patent. Mr. Nobel's allegations were, in effect, that the materials of ordite were in his specification, and that the Government's process is the same as his. This the Government denied. A good deal was said about the unfairness of the Government's Committee using the knowledge they had acquired in their investigations to invent a new explosive which was only nominally different from one of those which they had rejected. It can easily be imagined that a great deal of this kind of talk was indulged in by interested parties who considered that they had been slighted and unjustly treated. The Government was represented as having done a mean and an unfair thing. But a little reflection might show them that there was not much sense or justice in their reproaches and accusations. The Government's Committee were not obliged to so-

cept an article that did not suit them. In the investigations, they were not made the confidants of inventors and no one was foolish enough to tell them the secrets of his trade. The knowledge which the Committee obtained by experiment and investigation was legitimately their property, and any one else who used the same means and was equally intelligent could acquire the same knowledge. The Explosives Committee went to work in precisely the same way as every other inventor does. They availed themselves of all the knowledge they could obtain on the subject of explosives, and improved upon that knowledge. Mr. Nobel or Mr. Anyone Else could have done the same thing that they did, and no one would have dreamed of finding fault with him.

The Nobel Explosives Company were not satisfied with the Committee's explanations, and went to law with the Government. The case was tried before Mr. Justice Rogers, and lasted fourteen days. Judgment was given in favor of the Government. The Judge decided that ordite was very different from ballistite both in chemical composition and ballistite powers as well as in appearance. The new powder is, therefore, in every sense the property of the British Government, and experts say that it is the best thing of its kind yet invented.

A CIVIC ELECTION.

The civic election in Seattle, on Tuesday, was a most interesting contest. It was preceded by a lively campaign, during which it was very difficult to decide which party had the best of it. The election seems to have been run on political lines, though what national politics have to do with the choice of the officials of a municipality it is difficult to see. One would suppose that bringing in a foreign and wholly irrelevant issue would prevent the citizens choosing the best man to manage their civic affairs. A man who is unexceptionable as a politician might be most objectionable as a city official, and, on the other hand, the citizen best qualified to aid in managing the affairs of the city might be of no account at all as a politician. This is, in fact, very often the case. But it seems almost impossible to get the inhabitants of American cities to realize that the government of a municipality, great or small, is as much a matter of business as running a bank or a big mercantile concern. In choosing the directors of a bank, the stockholders never give a thought to the politics of the men they vote for, their trustworthiness and their business capacity are almost the only things considered. The consequences are that, as a rule, banks are pretty well managed, while the cities in which the councillors and other elected officials are chosen on account of their political creed and professions, are almost invariably badly governed.

In Seattle the Republicans won "a glorious victory" while the Democrats were moved under. Besides the Republicans and the Democrats, the Populists and the A. P. A. are figures in the election. Men seem to have been chosen as civic officials for almost everything except their ability to serve their fellow citizens efficiently and honestly. It will be a great wonder if the electors who have the good of the city at heart do not, before this time next year, bitterly regret that the issue of the election for men to conduct the business of the city were political and not those which were calculated to lead the citizens to choose representatives because they gave promise of being capable and honest administrators.

HOW IT IS "AT HOME."

A writer in "The Liberty Review," an English publication, writing on the "Slavery of Members of Parliament," says:

"It is not abnormal that a candidate should be badgered by every faddist of his constituency to vote for anti-vivisection, anti-opium trade, teetotalism, eight hours labor, anti-contracting out, the Newcastle nonsense, and a score of other fads, or stand the chance of offending a party and losing a whole block of votes. Candidates promise anything or shuffles, under the hope that the particular fad will not be introduced. Anyhow, private judgment is buried, freedom is crippled, and all arguments which may crop up to give a new turn to a doubtful question must be ignored. A member persuaded against his pledge is like a woman convinced against her will. Thus obliged, cribbed, confined, no question stands on its own merits, no argument is of any force, and the pledged members might be toy automata wound with a key, with no more brains than a mask or a harlequin's wig."

This is, no doubt, a good deal overdrawn. There surely must be some independent men in the Imperial House of Commons, and there must be a few at least free to give expression to their own opinions, and to vote for the side they believe to be right. The writer graphically describes the tyranny which faddists everywhere attempt to exercise over their representatives in Parliament. They seem to think that their members are, politically and intellectually, their bond slaves, and expect him to advocate their pet schemes and to vote for their several hobbies. That he should have opinions and convictions of his own never seems to have entered their minds.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 8.—The bark Mary Winkelman brings news that James Cassiers, steward of the Soallen, is in prison at Honolulu with prospects of a charge of murder being lodged against him. Cassiers was arrested here on a charge of smuggling opium some weeks ago, and his narrow escape from conviction seems to have had no effect. At Honolulu he attempted to get ashore with 20 tins of opium concealed about his clothes, and was stopped by two native officers. When they took him into custody Cassiers drew a carving knife with a twelve-inch blade and stabbed and cut both men in a dozen places. One officer was expected to die at last accounts.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Fourth Session of the Sixth Parliament.

THIRTY-SECOND DAY.

THURSDAY, March 8, 1894.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 p.m. Prayers by Ven. Archdeacon Scriven.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

HON. MR. TURNER asked leave to introduce a bill entitled "An act for the regulation of the department of agriculture, and for conferring the powers and duties of the minister, and of the officers of the department."

Bill read a first time; second reading next sitting.

CARIBOO RAILWAY.

DR. WATT, with reference to his remarks of the previous day, as reported in the Colonist, said that what he then intended to say was merely that he thought the tendency of the amendment moved by Mr. Adams would make the bill of no use; and that he had no authority for saying that the company would be too much hampered by this legislation, or that in consequence of it they would abandon the project.

KOOTENAY ENTERPRISES.

MR. KELLEN moved the second reading of the bill for the incorporation of tramway, telephone and telegraph lines in the district of West Kootenay. The bill provides that companies proposing to construct tramways may be incorporated, and that the sanction of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works be obtained after the memorandum of association has been duly advertised, and it also gives power to expropriate the land on which the tramway is intended to run, upon the usual conditions.

MR. COTTON objected that this bill proposed to confer privileges wholesale and that it had been the custom to grant only on the introduction of a private bill in each case.

HON. MR. BEAVER also objected to the bill, which he considered infringing upon the rights of eminent domain.

HON. MR. DAVIS said he considered the principle of such legislation pernicious, and consequently that the bill should not be allowed a second reading. Companies desirous of incorporation for such purposes had been encouraged to come to the house and their franchises given by means of private bills, and he thought that the bill proposed assured that existing lines should not be paralleled, with the result of creating disadvantages to the public. The prevailing practice involves full inquiry by the private bills committee with respect to all the interests affected, but the bill proposed to sweep away all this procedure and give general power by which lines may be constructed irrespective of existing enterprises. He felt that this would be against the public interest, if not a reflection upon provincial honesty so far as those companies already granted franchises may be affected. Only a few years ago he had opposed a proposition to authorize the building of a line parallel to the electric tramway between the Kootenay and New Westminster, on the ground that it was not in the public interest that a second line should be built when the business to be done did not require it. He had been bitterly assailed at the time, but he has had subsequently pronounced the principle of the bill to be the proper one. As he said before, he thought this bill would be a step in the wrong direction, and that it should be defeated.

MR. KELLEN pointed out that it was provided that lines could not be built without the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. This, he thought, would give the necessary safeguard.

HON. MR. DAVIS thought it would be much better to leave the power to give such sanction in the hands of the house as a whole, and not to entrust it to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

MR. EBERES pointed out that the whole question with respect to this bill hinges on the power of expropriation asked, as everything else desired is provided for in existing acts. He objected to giving the power asked for in this respect.

MR. KELLEN thought that apart from other considerations the power asked for was too great to grant to one so inexperienced, and he asked the house to propose, and not to the rest of the province. He felt that no harm could result from the few months' delay necessary to put through a private bill.

After further discussion the question was put and the house divided evenly as follows:

Ayes—Messrs. Adams, Brown, Fletcher, Foster, Grant, Hall, Hunter, Keith, Kellen, Kitchin, McKenzie, Semlin, Stoddart, Sward and Watt—15.

Noes—Messrs. Anderson, Baker, Beaver, Booth, Cotton, Croft, Davis, Eberes, Horne, Martin, Miles, Pooley, Penech, Rogers and Smith—15.

The SPEAKER said he would have great satisfaction in voting in support of any measure introduced by the hon. member for West Kootenay if he could do so. In instances, however, he felt that the bill proposed that the hon. member had exercised a very grave right which it alone should exercise, and he would therefore have to vote against the bill, and to declare the motion for the second reading lost.

DENTISTRY ACT.

DR. WATT moved the second reading of the bill to amend the dentistry act.

Motion agreed to on division of 11 to 10.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF DAIRYING.

HON. MR. TURNER moved the second reading of the bill for the encouragement of dairying. This bill, he said, carries its recommendation. The intention is to facilitate the formation and operation of associations for instruction in dairying throughout the province. It is modelled on the Ontario act, which has been found to have been found to work very well. The idea is to give instruction to the farmers and to give increased encouragement to dairying he hoped would be to lessen the great importation of products for which this country is so eminently adapted.

Bill read a second time.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

HON. MR. TURNER moved the second reading of the bill for the extermination of noxious weeds. He thought this bill, like the previous one, is greatly in the interest of agriculture, for one had only to go out for a short distance from the cities to see for himself how necessary it is that some steps should be taken to check the spread of the noxious weeds which are a source of so much annoyance to farmers.

MR. SEMLIN said he was quite willing to admit that the intention of the bill is good, but he doubted if it is practicable. In his neighborhood, for instance, the noxious weeds upon the mountains, which could not be cut, spread their seeds for miles around.

HON. MR. DAVIS said that the bill reminded him of one dealing with the same subject which had some years ago been before the house, and upon which the then member for Westminster had made some humorous remarks, including the characteristic observation that he felt disinclined to support it because it did not include the most noxious weed of all—the Chinese pig. (Laughter.) On the whole he thought the bill a move in

the right direction, but he thought that the interpretation clause—which as before stated was copied from the Ontario act—is too comprehensive, for instance it seemed to him that it need not include the dandelion, which he believed was used for certain household purposes; and the presence of the daisy, to the best of his recollection, had been associated with ideas of more or less delight to the rising generation, and he thought it hardly necessary that the daisy should be exterminated. As to wild oats, he would not be surprised to hear some objection from the hon. leader of the opposition, who it is understood has not quite finished sowing his. (Laughter.) The subject of the bill had received some attention from the corporations of the cities, but they appeared not to have gone about the work the right way, as though men were sent out to cut down thistles this has not been done until after the thistles were in bloom and their seeds had been distributed.

MR. COTTON thought the oxye daisy should be included in any bill of extermination, and he called attention to the necessity of some steps being taken to secure the destruction of weeds on reserves, to which this bill does not apply.

MR. KITCHEN expressed the hope that no harm would be allowed to come to the sowing, the dandelion and the lamb's quarters, and also he saw nothing to condemn in the oxye daisy, which he said "is not the little daisy that we are all acquainted with." (Laughter and applause.) He spoke in praise of these as most noxious weeds.

MR. BOOTH did not know that the bill was of very great use now, though he thought such a measure might very well have been passed twenty years ago.

HON. MR. DAVIS remarked that because the matter had not been attended to twenty years ago is no reason why the nuisance should not be abated now. The house must consider the interests of the country twenty years hence.

MR. ROGERS said there are certain weeds which he thought might well be destroyed in some such way as proposed. One of the worst of these is the Canada thistle, which is just beginning to come in now. Another obnoxious weed is the wild mustard, and if it could be kept down by any means the benefit would be very beneficial to all farmers. He thought that the bill possibly went too far, but he heartily agreed with its object.

THE SPEAKER here called attention to the fact that the bill did not appear to be in order, as it seemed to be one which should have been brought in on message from the Lieutenant-Governor.

HON. MR. TURNER, in consequence of this and of other objections, moved that the order for the second reading be discharged, so that the bill might be brought in in another form.

MOTION AGREED TO.

HALL MINES TRAMWAY.

The house went into committee of the whole. Mr. Rogers in the chair, on the bill to authorize the Hall Mines, Limited, to construct tramways and electrical and other works in the vicinity of Nelson (Mr. Ebert).

Objection was taken to the clause in the preamble reciting the prayer of the petition for power to "expropriate lands for a tramway line, and for a site for power houses, mill, concentrating or smelting works, or such other work as may be necessary." Mr. Brown moved to strike out the words "mill, concentrating or smelting works."

MR. EBERES explained that when the ore was brought down by the proposed gravitation tramway from the mine to the Kootenay river, there would be a considerable amount of concentrating purposes, and it might happen that the owner of this would not be willing to sell, and the whole scheme of the company would thus be brought to a standstill. He pointed out that there is nothing offensive about concentrating works, so that no injury would be done by including in the expropriation property by which the land required for this purpose. With respect to smelting works, there might be an objection on account of the offensive fumes emitted, and he would not oppose striking out that much of the clause, but he asked the house to vote against the amendment as it stood.

MR. SWORD then moved an amendment to the amendment in accordance with the remarks of the promoter of the bill, the effect being to strike out "Smelting works" from the clause.

The matter was debated at great length and with considerable interest. Finally the amendment to the amendment was agreed to.

Additions to the preamble proposed by Mr. Martin and Mr. Croft were under consideration, when Hon. Mr. Vernon, who had been out of the chamber, called attention to the prayer of the petition, and said that he was not in order.

It being nearly 6 o'clock the committee rose and reported progress.

The house adjourned at 6 p.m.

THIRTY-THIRD DAY.

FRIDAY, March 9, 1894.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock. Prayers by Ven. Archdeacon Scriven.

MUNICIPAL ACT.

MR. GRANT presented the report of the select committee appointed to consider proposed amendments to the municipal act, with the bill they recommend accompanying.

Received and ordered to be printed.

SUCCESSION DUTIES.

HON. MR. DAVIS moved that the house go into committee of the whole to consider the bill to provide for the payment of succession duties in certain cases.

HON. MR. BEAVER objected that the bill had just been distributed, and he wanted time to read it before it is introduced in this house.

HON. MR. DAVIS said he thought the house ought to agree to this purely formal motion, as there would be plenty of time subsequently to read and consider the measure before it would be proceeded with. He was anxious to proceed with the public business so that the session might be brought to a close before the end of the month, or before Easter, if possible. He had intended to go on with the Kootenay & Slokan bill to-day, but unfortunately found that he was not quite prepared to do so.

HON. MR. BEAVER contended that the stage of the bill now proposed is not the purely formal matter always claimed by the government, and he insisted upon his right to discuss the measure at length, and would consider it a matter of indignity if the government went on with this business now.

THE SPEAKER remarked that he always considered this stage a purely formal matter, but he had seen the bill, and he would be disposed to check any discussion on the measure.

HON. MR. DAVIS said he would be sorry to appear uncivil to anyone, and in consequence of the objection made he would not press the motion.

POINT ROBERTS.

MR. HORNE moved: "Whereas the boundary line between British Columbia and Alaska is likely to be defined at nearly date;

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

and whereas that piece of land situated south of the 49th parallel of north latitude, and known as Point Roberts, containing about four square miles of territory, is so isolated from the United States of America that the only means of communication by land is through British Columbia; and whereas during the summer months a large number of Indians and others congregate on the said Point Roberts and cause great annoyance to settlers in the vicinity of the mouth of the Fraser river, in British Columbia, and whereas there is growing up at the said Point Roberts a salmon fishing and canning industry, which, being in United States waters, is wholly uncontrolled by such strict regulations as those of British Columbia fishery laws, and whereas the salmon caught by those fishermen are on their way to the Fraser river, and are entrapped by means which are illegal in British Columbia, and without any weekly close season; whereas this entrapping and fishing at Point Roberts seriously interferes with the fishing and canning industry on the Fraser river, it should be, either by consent or arrangement, brought under some international regulation in harmony with those of the Fraser river; and whereas it is desirable for the protection of the fishing interests of the Fraser that some international arrangement should be entered into between the United States and the Dominion of Canada for preventing the catching and destruction of salmon at Point Roberts by methods which are illegal in the Dominion; and whereas it would be a great advantage to British Columbia and the fishing industry on the Fraser river if Point Roberts were part of Canada; Therefore be it resolved, that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be and he is hereby authorized to call the attention of the Dominion government to the desirability of placing before the joint commissioners (appointed by the United States and Canada in the summer of 1892 to settle the boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia) the desirability of Canada acquiring the said Point Roberts, either by purchase or by giving a piece of land in British Columbia adjoining Alaska in exchange for the said Point Roberts; and that His Honor be respectfully requested to the Dominion government to draw attention to the fact that the said Point Roberts is now going on at Point Roberts, near the mouth of the Fraser river, will seriously affect the interests of British Columbia if allowed to continue. Point Roberts is completely isolated from the United States, and is in the United States but not of it, and it is really of no value to that country. But the possession of it by the United States is a serious harm to the Fraser river salmon fishing. It is so situated that the fishermen making their way to the Fraser river, and then to the fishing grounds on the Fraser river, are under United States territory, and are under United States laws and fishing regulations. If these regulations were the same as those in force on the Fraser river, British Columbia, the fishing and packing establishments at Point Roberts would be injurious to the fishing industry of the Fraser, but such is not the case. The United States fishermen are allowed to use traps and other means of catching salmon, which are very injurious to the fishing industry of British Columbia, and also they have no laws regulating the number of hours the nets can be set each week and no close season. Their laws and regulations have failed to preserve the salmon in United States waters, while the Canadian laws and regulations have been of great benefit. If the fishermen at Point Roberts are permitted to continue as at present and not stop at certain intervals during the season so as to give the salmon a chance to get to the spawning grounds up the Fraser, and continue to use the applicable laws in United States waters, it will be very injurious to the fishing industry of the Fraser river, and of no benefit to the United States. He felt sure that if proper representations are made to the United States government an arrangement can be agreed upon whereby the fishing at Point Roberts could be carried on only under regulations the same as those in force in B. C. on the Fraser river. The matter he considered to be of great importance to British Columbia as it affects one of her most important industries, and he trusted that no time will be lost in endeavoring to make the necessary arrangement, either by change of the fishing regulations governing at Point Roberts, or by Canada acquiring the point. He hoped that this Government will strongly impress this matter on the Dominion authorities.

HON. MR. TURNER said he thought the United States government might well be approached on this subject, with the proposition to exchange this small piece of land for a larger piece south of Alaska. The anomalous position of Point Roberts at the present time was a great deal of trouble to both countries, because the territory is divided between the two. If the matter were properly represented to the United States government they would probably consider the advantage to them of making the exchange proposed, and enter into negotiations. The interference with the fishing industry mentioned in the resolution he thought is of the most importance to the industry in British Columbia, for persons operating on Point Roberts, not being bound by any regulations, can catch fish at less expense and with the law. He had reason to know that the canners who have to comply with the law, through an intimidation from the old country, that the salmon canning industry here is in a very critical condition. He knew positively that instructions have been sent out to close several canneries in this province, because they are handling thousands of cases of British Columbia salmon, and are on the market and with no immediate prospect of sale, owing largely to the competition of Alaska canneries and those in the Sound country and at Point Roberts, which can produce and sell salmon cheaper. It is true that the cheaper product is inferior, but this does not appear to prevent its sale. The point of land is of itself of no great value to either country,

but for the reasons stated he thought it would be well to bring it under Canadian jurisdiction if possible, as he felt confident that an exchange could be effected from what he knew of the United States government had brought out that they consented to surrender Point Roberts they would want Vancouver Island in exchange, or at least Queen Charlotte Island. However, much of a nuisance the operations now carried on at Point Roberts might be, the legislature should think very seriously before recommending the surrender of any part of British Columbia, fronting on the sea in the vicinity of Alaska, for the province has not so many ports on her western coast that she can afford to part with any. He would much prefer, in place of giving away any part of the province, to consider a proposition for the purchase of that long strip running down from each coast, and forming the western boundary of a large part of the province. He had very little hope, however, that negotiations now suggested could be successful, though he would not oppose the resolution.

HON. MR. BEAVER said he would like to know what had become of the resolution passed in 1888, practically advising the acquisition of Point Roberts by the province of British Columbia. He thought the present recommendation should be for its purchase by the province rather than by the Dominion.

Motion agreed to.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:—

To amend the companies act, 1890, and amending act.—HON. MR. DAVIS.

For the better protection of bottlers and manufacturers of beverages.—MR. HALL.

To amend the placer mining act, 1891.—HON. MR. BAKER.

To amend the mineral act, 1891, and amending act.—HON. MR. BAKER.

COUNTY COURTS ACT.

The house went into committee on the bill to amend the county courts act, Mr. Stoddart in the chair.

Considerable discussion took place on the subject of appeals from judgments in cases where less than \$100 is involved, and at the suggestion of Hon. Mr. Pooley a clause was inserted providing that in such cases an appeal shall lie from final judgments without leave, on questions of law only, and from interlocutory judgments upon leave from the county court judge.

The committee reported the bill complete with amendments.

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY.

HON. COL. BAKER moved the second reading of the bill to provide a legislative library and bureau of statistics. He explained the desirability of establishing a library for the use of the legislature and the officers of the government, and held that the proper course has been taken in this matter in securing a competent librarian, and then by small appropriations from year to year gradually acquiring a library which in time will prove of immense value to the province.

Bill read a second time; to be committed next sitting.

B. C. RAILWAY ACT.

The house again went into committee on the railway act amendment bill, Mr. Adams in the chair.

The bill was reported complete without amendments.

SCHOOL ACT.

The house went into committee on the bill entitled "An act to amend the public school act, 1891," Mr. Horne in the chair.

HON. MR. BEAVER pointed out that the clauses to be amended are in the act of 1893 and not in that of 1891, and are not numbered as stated in the bill, which appeared to be based on the consolidation made for convenience of reference only and not by authority of the legislature. He thought under the circumstances it was not in order to go on with the bill.

THE SPEAKER, to whom the point was referred, agreed with the objection taken, and the order for committee was accordingly discharged.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF DAIRYING.

The house went into committee on the dairying bill, Dr. Watt in the chair.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

VICTORIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

The house again went into committee on the bill respecting the Victoria electric railway and light company, Mr. Sward in the chair.

The committee reported the bill complete with amendments.

KASLO-SLOKAN RAILWAY.

The house went into committee on the bill respecting the Kaslo-Slokan railway, Mr. Grant in the chair.

Bill reported complete without amendment.

DYKING AND DRAINAGE.

MR. EBERES moved the second reading of the bill to authorize certain dyking and drainage works in the district of New Westminster. He explained that the object of the bill is to extend the powers of the commissioners appointed under the act. In order to carry out the purpose for which they were appointed they find it necessary to divert the waters of Vedder creek and send them through the Look-a-kuk channel to the Fraser river, and they ask now the authority to enter upon certain lands for the purpose of carrying on this work. The bill had been opposed before the private bills committee by certain farmers along the Look-a-kuk, but an arrangement has been made whereby their interests will be protected. If the dyking scheme is carried out as proposed, between 20,000 and 30,000 acres of land will be reclaimed, and this will be worth \$40 or \$50 an acre.

Bill read a second time, after discussion.

MUNICIPAL ACT.

HON. MR. DAVIS asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the municipal act.

Read a first time; second reading on Monday.

PRIVATE BILLS PROCEDURE.

THE SPEAKER called attention to what he described as an abuse which had grown up in committee of the whole, in considering the preambles of private bills before the enacting clauses have been dealt with.

His attention had been directed to this matter long since, which had