orner by the opposition, d resulted in a direct and of business to the mer- nsportation companies of while neither British Co- ther Canadians had bene- eipts from mining certi- en off—not as the Fin- nd contended, because of f taxation—on account of refusing to allow miners the law under review had o the disadvantage of the same ti the ex- ountry's d ut and nin peaker ook a

8:30, Mr. ation of the s touched on at while he g to trying the special interest of inctly opposed the e principle of retaliation, unbusiness-like. He look- repeal as the only proper re.

son interrupted with some ference to the rights of n, and was sharply re- interruption by Mr. Tur- in effect that he had just est in the prosperity and n workingman as anyone although he was continu- ut and otherwise parading to that factor of the vote. regard for the workingman ome of those who were al- their love for the work- any cases would be found from the workingman, and his expense. The govern- forced to bring in correc- n on this subject (govern- "No,") through the action ion, a member of the op- been first to put a notice paper. That such legisla- nally contemplated by the dicated by there being no to in the Speech. He could out a return reference to for Alberni, whose tactics of the story he had once gnostic who had undertaken who took his text (he said) ble, it being "there is no ng again there was found plete quotation was "the d in his heart there is no Neill had in his desire to position at any cost, left out and tangible part of the umed to quote. It was but ple of the old saying that a f the truth is hardest of all

Y-GENERAL HENDER- xpressing doubt that the op- ntended that this resolution considered seriously, under- lish at considerable length pinion at the time of the he alien act justified that e feeling of the people had ged, but the passage of this uld, in his opinion, be tanta- ing that the people had lost themselves. He held that ford (and perhaps Mr. Mc- d with consistency have nd supported this resolution. MCKEN admitted that "if had as much foresight as would be perhaps better for by a—a large sight." He pared to take his own share ity for the alien act passing; early proved bad in practice ent should have taken the nity to repeal the measure, serving of censure for not so.

NE did not look upon the altogether bad; it had been d (in his opinion) and passed perimental legislation. Now been proved that Atlin was nan's camp as at first antici- the act had not proved all en hoped for, it would per- l to somewhat amend it, but reason to believe that the ac- overnment had been distaste- ountry.

NRO thought that the solici- opposition for the government -fetched" as the gruesome ar- of the old maid, who being g at the foot of a stone wall, been asked what was the

wailed, "I was just thinking should get married, nobody what minute some of these uld fall down and kill the

ed the resolution, which he inconsistent with the action osition in not voting against e when it was before the year. He also held that the he opposition lacked cohesion ation; and claimed that if the was the best foundation the could get for a want of confi- ution it was an advent of kness.

OLEY argued that the entire government's reply was that ion alone were blameable for w because they had permitted ment to pass it, being presum- able than the government to lts of such legislation—or at at the opposition were equally with the government in that not forced a division. He hat governments are always for accomplished legislation. ked that the opposition had decidedly busy as it was last saving the government from e worst blundering that it was commit. He had a few words gard to the reference to claim- ade by Mr. Helgesen (testify- extreme freedom of British rom this class of offence); and ed upon Mr. Helgesen's ex- of his statements quoted in ft Journal. The senior mem- ariboo had explained that they some time after 12 o'clock at n all hands were very jolly— on the hotel stoop. Possibly, these circumstances the house e to accept Mr. Helgesen's that he didn't quite remember he had said. It reminded him y) of the old story of the cat house. Perhaps some of the night have heard it, but it was new to others, so he would tell

se had fallen into a vat and eat danger of drowning when the family cat, and appealed aid. hould I get you out of your said the cat. "Do you know ld happen to you if I took you

ose you'd eat me," replied the ut take me out anyway. Any- etter than drowning." don't want to eat you," said "I'm not hungry just now." I'll tell you what we'll do," he mouse, "you get me out, and're hungry just call on me, and and be eaten." t agreed and the mouse being t scampered gladly away. Time nd the day came when the cat

was hungry—perhaps it might have been five or six months after. (Laughter). So the cat called on the mouse to come forth and be devoured; and the mouse asked from the security of its hole, the reasons of the demand.

"Why," said the cat, "you promised when I helped you out of the vat that you'd come and be eaten whenever I called on you!"

"Indeed! Is that so," answered the mouse—"but you mustn't pay any attention to that. You must remember, I was in liquor at the time!"

Dealing with the remarks of Mr. Deane, the senior member for Esquimalt said this gentleman had quite described the situation when he had said that the alien law was "merely experimental legislation." It was just this experimental legislation that calculated to ruin any country—legislation by chance or guesswork, hasty, crude, immature—the one thing above all others that was certain to upset business interests and work the ruin of industries. It was such legislation, devised by men without experience of the conditions or requirements of the province that had brought the country into its present chaos of conditions, with a government whose best defence for its blunders of law-making was the childish resort to the opposition "what did you let us do it for."

MR. MACPHERSON said that the leader of the opposition in the course of his address had made a reference to the workingman, and had made a statement concerning him (Mr. Macpherson) that was untruthful.

"Order! Withdraw! Take it back," came from the opposition benches.

"I say it was untrue—it was not founded on facts," persisted Mr. Macpherson.

"Take that back," said Mr. Turner and Mr. McBride in unison, the former gentleman appealing to the chair.

The Chair insisted sharply that the unparliamentary expression be withdrawn.

"I will withdraw then," said Mr. Macpherson, "but I will say that the statement was not founded on fact."

"Order"—"withdraw," came from the other side.

"The member for Vancouver city has been told to withdraw an unparliamentary expression," said Mr. Turner, "I submit he has no right to quibble."

"The expression must be withdrawn positively," said Mr. Speaker.

"Very well, Mr. Speaker," said Mr. Macpherson—"but he cannot prove what he said, and I defy him to prove it. He said that I was fattening on the wages of the workingman."

"I did not," corrected Mr. Turner. "I said that there were many who professed to be great friends of the workingman who were fattening on the wages of the workingman. I made no personal allusion."

"Well," said Mr. Macpherson, "I am not in receipt of one dollar from the workingmen. The gentlemen opposite are the ones that are—and I can prove it."

The last words were shouted, and Mr. Speaker insisted that they be withdrawn. Mr. Macpherson resuming his seat.

MR. RALPH SMITH, following, also indulged in considerable across-the-floor firing, until "called down" by the Speaker. He held that the opposition in the present resolution were "taking advantage of a wrong that they themselves had perpetrated, to try and knock out the government."

He too held that the opposition had been inconsistent; that the duty of the opposition was to keep the government in the straight and narrow path; and that if they had failed in this the government was not to be held responsible. All the members of the opposition virtually had supported the law, and after it had been found to require material amendment, and the government had manifested a disposition to correct it, the opposition, if sincere in their desire to benefit the country, should have assisted in the work of amendment. It seemed to him that the whole scope of the resolution was to endeavor to make political capital on a very small foundation.

MR. J. M. MARTIN found it painful to listen to the efforts of the opposition to evade responsibility, and declared that he was not afraid to face his own sins, either of omission or of commission.

MR. CLIFFORD, in closing the debate, criticised "experimental legislation" as exceedingly costly; and declared that half a million had been lost to the country in Atlin alone through the operation of this obnoxious alien law. He pointed to the great mistake of the government in not sending up a gold commissioner with full power to adjust all differences, as in the old mining days, in which event there would have been no expensive friction, and possibly no need for the commissioner.

"By the changes in the law, a gold commissioner could not be invested with such powers as proposed," said the Attorney-General.

"Is that so," replied Mr. Clifford—"well they ought to have done it anyway," said the speaker.

He proceeded to give his attention to the inconsistencies of Mr. Helgesen of Atlin, Mr. Helgesen of Cariboo, and Mr. Helgesen of the house. Mr. Helgesen, he said, had come to Victoria and advocated the immediate granting of hydraulic leases under conditions of a nature that he had been delegated precisely to oppose; yet Mr. Helgesen had the "cheek" and the "gall" to charge him with inconsistency. (Laughter.)

As for the statements credited to the senior member for Cariboo in the Ashcroft paper—he (Mr. Clifford) was not inclined to put much importance in them. Mr. Helgesen had been straightforward enough to acknowledge that he was slightly inebriated at the time—

"No, no," said Mr. Helgesen—"there's no man in the province that can say—that can swear that I was ever the worse for liquor."

"I wish we all of us could say the same," commented Mr. Clifford, amid a general laugh. He next paid his compliments to Mr. Munro, and said that if the opposition had wanted foundation for want-of-confidence resolutions they had it in each and every one of the statutes of last session. He would have been glad to see the Attorney-General bring forward a bill to wipe them all out of existence en bloc, as in the true interest of the country.

As for the government—they should resign at once, for no one could claim that the affairs of the country could properly be carried on with a majority of but one.

Mr. Helgesen rose for a word of personal explanation.

Mr. Speaker thought he had explained sufficiently.

Mr. Helgesen subsided.

Mr. McBride rose to a point of order.

Mr. Speaker wanted to know what the point of order was.

Mr. McBride said he was coming to it.

Mr. Speaker said, "state it."

Mr. McBride held that there was no necessity for haste—he was coming to it in his own way.

Mr. Speaker intimated that that was not the way of the rules.

Mr. McBride still held the floor.

"Will you take your seat," said Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McBride didn't.

"Sit down," said Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McBride remained erect.

"Take you seat, Sir," said Mr. Speker, "will you take your seat?"

"Did I understand the division bell has been rung," asked Mr. McBride.

"Yes, it has," said Mr. Speaker,

"But the member for Cassiar was addressing the house. He had not yet concluded his remarks," said Mr. McBride.

"The member for Cassiar gave up the floor," said Mr. Speaker.

"You are in error, Mr. Speaker," said Mr. McBride. "The member for Cassiar merely took his seat while a point of order was being taken across the floor."

"If the member for Cassiar has any complaint," said Mr. Speaker, "he is quite competent to state it for himself. And he is the only one to make it. Will you take your seat."

"I suppose I'll have to," said Mr. McBride.

Then Mr. Eberts rose to enter a protest.

"I have noticed, Sir," he said, "that when you address an honorable member on the floor of this house, you say 'sit down!' I protest that that is not the proper way to address an honorable member of this house."

"What is the hon. member speaking to," said Mr. Speaker. "Will you sit down!"

"I will when I am addressed in proper parliamentary language," said Mr. Eberts.

"Will the hon. member for South Victoria take his seat," said Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member for South Victoria did so.

The motion was then put, and (having forgotten the form of the resolution in the variation of the interruptions) there was a chorus of "ayes" from the government side.

"What," said Mr. Speaker in astonishment.

The opposition smiled broadly.

"Show of hands," cried Attorney-General Henderson—first to realize the situation.

Then the resolution was put on record, being negatived on a division of 19 to 16, Mr. Joseph Martin being absent from his seat.

A few minutes later the house adjourned.

(From Wednesday's Daily Edition).

Although there was no night sitting of the legislature yesterday, the house previous to the early evening adjournment went through the longest list of business that has been disposed of in any one day this session—motions for returns and questions to be answered by the ministers taking up a major part of the order paper. The only real debate of the day was upon Mr. Helmcken's resolution looking to the settlement of the Songhees reserve (question upon which virtually everyone expressed himself, there being perfect unanimity of opinion on the principle involved, but the details being looked at in different lights by some members of both sides. None of the second readings of new government measures were brought on, and the list of business for the ensuing sitting (depleted by the disappearance of the long series of motions and questions) was filled up by the presentation of three new public and three private bills, the most important being in the direction of further amending the Coal Mines Regulation Act.

* * *

Prayers were read by Rev. J. F. Vichert.

PRIVATE BILLS PRESENTED.

Mr. Green (chairman) presented the first report of the private bills committee, stating the preambles proved and standing orders complied with in the cases of the Atlin Railway and Chilcat Pass Railway Company bills. In connection with petitions Nos. 1 and 4—the Crow's Nest Pass Light & Power Co.'s bill, and the Vancouver City Amendment bill—the committee reported the bills not complied with, as up to the 26th December last the time had not expired for the publication of notice; although, owing to the objects sought being public in question being presumably in the public interest, and the petitions being otherwise in order, it was recommended that the rules be suspended so as to admit of the bills being introduced—subject of course to the payment of double fees.

The report was received upon reading.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Clifford presented a petition from Edward Gibson and others, for the incorporation of a company to construct and operate a railway from Victoria City to the eastern boundary of the province.

Mr. Speaker ruled out of order the petition which had been presented by Mr. Eberts for residents of South Victoria district, objecting to the location of a certain school. The cause of objection was that an expenditure of public money was involved.

The petition of the British Columbia-Yukon railway company was read, received and ordered to be printed and referred to the railway committee.

ALLOWED TO STAND.

Mr. Eberts permitted to stand over the bill of which he had given notice the first day of the session, for the amendment of the Placer Mining Act—as he had noticed that the Attorney-General had a similar measure on the order paper, the object of each being presumably to amend the alien exclusion law.

On the order for the same measure standing in the Attorney-General's name being reached, it too was "passed" by Mr. Henderson.

NEW LEGISLATION.

The following bills were introduced, read a first time and placed on the orders for second reading at the next sitting of the house:

To amend the Tramway Incorporation Act (Mr. Helmcken);

To amend the Notaries Appointment Act (Attorney-General); and

To amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act (President of the Council).

UP-TO-DATE ACCOUNTS.

Mr. Turner, seconded by Col. Baker, moved for a return to the house of the accounts of revenue and expenditure from the 1st July, 1899, to the 31st December, 1899. It was important, the opposition leader contended, that the house should, if possible, have the information sought by this motion, although Hon. Mr. Cotton had informed him that it was doubtful if it could be procured. The Finance Minister had a few days ago said that he (Mr. Turner) "never forgot anything and never learned anything." He might say that he had not forgotten that the late government had been regularly asked for just such information as was sought in this resolution, the gentlemen opposite vigorously insisting upon their rights to receive it. It had been furnished them, too—in 1892, 1893 and 1898—so that precedent and practice justified the resolution. If he had not "learned anything," according to the Minister of Finance, the honorable gentleman referred to apparently had, for he now put forward the very same explanations of the difficulty of presenting these accounts that while in opposition he had declared to be insufficient. It was not a detail statement that was asked for, but such information of a rough nature as the finance department could supply.

Hon. Mr. Cotton had no objection to the resolution, but explained that it would be only an abstract that he could supply, this abstract usually going to the house through the public accounts committee. He would look into the matter involved by the resolution, and do whatever was possible in the direction of meeting the opposition leader's wishes—and for this purpose moved the adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

THE SONGHEES RESERVE.

Mr. Helmcken moved, with Mr. McPhillips as seconder, that

"Whereas resolutions have at various times been passed by this house for the removal of the Indians from the Songhees reserve; and whereas the maintenance of such reserve is a detriment to the city of Victoria; and whereas lately an arbitration has been held for ascertaining the price to be paid by the E. & N. Railway Co. for the acquisition of the right-of-way through such reserve: Be it therefore resolved that this house respectfully urge upon the government the desirability of this matter receiving early consideration, and such steps be taken by the provincial government as will ensure the removal of the said Indians from the said reserve."

The mover felt sure that in any measure that might be taken for the settlement of this long-standing cause of vexation to Victoria city and to the province, he had the sympathy and co-operation of the Premier and of the government. He referred to the resolution of the city council of Victoria not long ago, looking to the possible acquisition of a public park in the district now included in the reserve property; and also to the correspondence recently laid before the house in which the Dominion government appeared to have expressed a determination to consider as the only basis of settlement the proposition that had been made to the late government by Mr. McKinna, of Ottawa, acting as a special commissioner in this Songhees reserve question. These terms proposed by the Dominion government had not been accepted by the provincial authorities as they appeared to involve a sacrifice or abandonment of provincial rights; and here the matter rested. He had no doubt but that the Premier was doing his best to find some means by which the object sought might be ultimately gained, and he thought the present would be found an opportune time at which to resume negotiations with the Dominion government in this direction. The recent dastardly murder of Mrs. Tetlow near the reserve in question had again directed attention to the necessity of bringing this tract of land within the city—yet uncontrollable by the city—under proper policing; while at the same time the recent arbitration as to the E. & N. right of way had enabled an approximation of values to be obtained that had never been attainable heretofore. He thought that the member for South East Kootenay had possibly come nearer to the solution of this problem than anyone else when he had proposed to include the Indians themselves in the scope of the negotiations for settlement, for the Indians were human beings, and so to be treated—besides which they had manifested no disposition to act unreasonably. He thought that all parties concerned—the Provincial and Dominion governments, the Indians, and by courtesy perhaps, the E. & N. railway company, should get together, and instead of allowing this matter to drag on interminably, devise some scheme for its settlement upon a basis of justice and fairness to all.

HON. MR. SEMLIN agreed that the present government was just as anxious as their predecessors had been to make a satisfactory end of this question, but had found the path of settlement strewn with difficulties. He did not agree with the hon. member for Victoria that it would be wise to introduce the Indians or the city council, or the E. & N. railway company in the discussion, as it would only further complicate a situation taken up too complicated already. The provincial authorities could only recognize and deal with the Dominion government, which was the main party in the conference. It was true that the late government had had a basis of settlement proposed to it by the Dominion, but it was not such a proposal as could—in view of provincial rights—be accepted. The present government had endeavored to resume negotiations, and had been met with the information that the solution of the difficulty proposed to the former ministry was the only one which the Dominion would consent to consider. It was in this position that the matter stood at present, and he did not see that anything could very well be done.

HON. MR. COTTON also emphasized that the government was anxious and willing to do all in its power to secure a settlement of the entire question, but pointed out that there were several factors that had been ignored in the basis of adjustment proposed by the Dominion. He was quite agreed with the proposition that the Indians should be properly provided for, but his view was that this would have been done when they were settled upon some other tract of land, away from the city, and better suited to the conditions and necessities of their mode of life. As an Indian reserve, a tract of good land fifty or a hundred miles from the city would be even more comfortable and advantageous for the Indians, better hunting and fishing being provided; and he therefore thought that when the province should have provided such a new home for the Indians, they should be satisfied and the province have the right to deal with this city land, the increased value of which since it was first recognized as an Indian reservation had been in no way brought about by the Indians. The Dominion government appeared to think, however, that the Indians were in some undefined way entitled to an interest in the unearned increment, and this appeared to be one of the most difficult points to dispose of in the settlement of the vexatious question. The provincial government were quite willing to provide for the Indians—they might even go so far as to set aside a certain portion of the moneys realized from the disposal of the land, for the benefit of the Indians—but the proposal submitted by the Dominion government, as the only one which could be considered, was not one that the provincial government could admit with due regard for provincial rights.

COL. BAKER also regretted that an arrangement appeared impossible as long as the Dominion retained its present, and wrong position—which, however, the local government should use every endeavor to have corrected. He held that the land occupied as a reserve did not in any way belong to the Dominion, but was merely held in trust for the Indians, as wards of the federal authorities; and this being the case, maintained that it should be a simple matter to remove the Indians to another and (for them) more suitable part of the province.

MR. KELLIE referred in pathetic tones to the time of the white man's coming, and the simple open-handed hospitality extended by his red brother, the original monarch of the soil. He wondered if the untutored savage had for a moment imagined that the time would come when the whites would be endeavoring to take from his descendants the last vestige of their little heritage. He also wondered if the time would come in his turn when the heathen Chinee would be legislating in the parliament buildings of Victoria to take what is left of the land from the whites. (Laughter.)

MR. HELGESEN argued that as the Indians were the original holders of the land, they should be recognized as possessed of full rights of ownership, and that if they were removed they should be paid the full present value of the land—which he estimated at somewhere in the neighborhood of $200,000. It was not their fault that the city had grown up around them—they were there before the city.

MR. BOOTH suggested a friendly suit in the courts to determine whether the Dominion or the Provincial contention was correct as to the ownership of the land.

MR. TURNER explained that the land contained in the Songhees reserve was not in the same position as that comprised in other Indian reservations, questioning whether the province had not a more particular and explicit right in this particular tract than in land comprised in other reservations. He argued strongly that when the Indians should be removed, all due consideration should be given to the city's claim for a large part of the reserve area for park purposes—especially as Vancouver had been very liberally dealt with in this regard. Of course he quite agreed that the government should treat the Indians with all fairness, and make adequate provision for their comfort.

MR. McPHILLIPS held that the government should endeavor to have the legal status of the various parties interested determined by process of law. He firmly believed that the Dominion could be shown to be in the wrong.

MR. EBERTS endorsed the tenor of the resolution, and disputed any Dominion right in the reserve tract. He quoted the old lease and agreement entered into in April, 1850, between Sir James Douglas and the heads of the tribe; and maintained that this document entirely altered the position of the case—securing the province in the ownership and placing this reserve upon an entirely different basis than that of other reserves throughout the Dominion, over which the federal authorities have proprietory jurisdiction. He traced the history of the negotiations up to date for the settlement of the Indians in some more suitable location, and pointed to the fact that the Dominion authorities had themselves admitted this reserve to be in a different position from all others, inasmuch as in the general cases whenever the Indians died, their shares of the property reverted to the province. By the application of this rule, the British Columbia government should now be in possession of the major portion of this reserve—the greater number of the Songhees Indians having passed away.

MR. HALL was distinctly of the opinion that the land should revert to the province, and met Mr. Helgesen's contentions with the argument that inasmuch as the Indians had had nothing to do with the increasing of the value of the land in question, the unearned increment should properly come to the city of Victoria, or at all events, the province of British Columbia. He held that it would be infinitely better for the Indians themselves to be given a new home, more removed from the temptations of the city.

MR. HELMCKEN closed the debate, with a suggestion that one of the ministers should visit Ottawa, and endeavor to affect a settlement without further delay of this vexatious question; and

The resolution was adopted, Mr. Kellie alone voting "nay."

RETURNS ORDERED.

Returns of correspondence were ordered:

Upon the motion of Mr. Turner, with respect to the dismissal of William Stephenson from the position of government agent at Quesnelle Forks;

In connection with the dismissal of Joseph H. St. Laurent from the position of road superintendent in the Cariboo district;

In relation to the floating of the loan of 1899 in London, including the prospectus, instructions to agents, applications for allotment, and letters of underwriters;

In connection with the cancellation of pre-emption claims at Log Cabin;

In respect particularly to the cancellation of the pre-emption claim of Thomas Tugwell, at Log Cabin; and

For all correspondence in the year 1898, or in any year subsequent thereto, between the provincial government and the Dominion government, or any other parties, in relation to the seizure by the United States, in November, 1897, of certain cattle, the property of Thomas Ellis, of Penticton.

With respect to the case of Mr. Tugwell, the leader of the opposition explained that he had been informed Mr. Tugwell complied with all the laws and regulation in making his pre-emption, cleared his land, erected substantial buildings, and had raised a crop of vegetables, which he was selling to the miners, when without notice or reason his pre-emption had been cancelled. The government should certainly have very good reasons before taking such a step; and it was to enable them to present these reasons to the country that the return had been asked for.

As to the case of Mr. Ellis: he had been in the habit of driving cattle from one part of the British Columbia interior to another through a strip of United States, under permit from the United States customs. On one particular occasion the driver had been stopped by a new American customs officer, despite his protest that the permit had been regularly obtained and would be produced as soon as he could send back for it—the cattle seized, and disposed of. He (Mr. Turner) had understood that upon the matter being taken up by the Dominion authorities and brought to trial in the Seattle courts, a decision favorable to Mr. Ellis had been rendered.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

In moving for a return in detail "of all moneys paid, and to whom paid, for legal services rendered to the government or any of the public departments, and the nature of such services, during 1899:"

Mr. McPhillips intimated that too many criminal cases in the lower courts were left to be prosecuted by private individuals or the police, both of which courses were open to many objections, and had been severely commented upon. It was perhaps possible that a change should now be made.

Hon. Mr. Henderson had no objection to the resolution, and thought that the suggestions offered might contain value, although the subject dealt with was one requiring consideration.

Hon. Mr. Cotton thought that if the government provided public prosecutors in the municipalities it might reasonably be expected that the government should receive all, or a portion, of the lower court fines or fees.

Mr. Eberts pointed to the fact that under section 253 of the Municipal Clauses Act, the duty of prosecuting was placed upon the municipalities, so that therefore if the government furnished counsel as proposed, the act would necessarily have to be amended so as to relieve the municipalities of the obligation of providing prosecutors in extreme cases.

The resolution was agreed to.

MINERALS ON INDIAN RESERVES

Mr. McNeill moved, seconded by Mr. Kellie, for "all correspondence between any member of the provincial government and any member of the Dominion government, relative to negotiations allowing the working, under suitable regulations, of the minerals on Indian Reserves within the province." The mover indicated that this was in the line of a recommendation from the mining committee of last session, and involved a question of great importance to the mining interest, more especially on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The reserves there appeared to be "without number, even as the sands of the sea" is, while it was no uncommon thing to find whole reserves in the possession of one man.

Mr. Deane favored the resolution, and it was agreed to.

STILL MORE RETURNS.

Mr. Eberts moved for a return "of all letters or telegrams (if any) from the agent-general in London, or the Bank of British Columbia, sent prior to the flotation of the last loan, calling the attention of the government to the fact that the presence of the Minister of Finance was necessary in London to facilitate the flotation."

Colonel Baker moved for a return "of all correspondence between the government or any member or officer thereof, in relation to the schools in South East Kootenay, especially the schools at Fernie, Cranbrook and Fort Steele; and returns of the number of children of school age each of those three places."

Both these were agreed to.

SETTLERS' GRIEVANCES.

Mr. R. Smith moved for the appointment of a select committee consisting of Messrs. Booth, Helmcken, Helgesen, Neill, and the mover, to enquire into the grievances of certain settlers in Nanaimo district and within the E. & N. railway belt, and set forth by petition or otherwise, and as contained in reports of a Dominion commissioner appointed by the Dominion parliament to investigate the whole of the cases, and which has since forwarded above reports to the provincial government, with an opinion that a settlement ought to be made by the provincial government; with power to send for persons and all necessary papers, and call for and examine witnesses under oath."

This, too, was adopted without division or debate.

OUT OF ORDER.

Mr. Deane moved that

"Whereas among the volunteers who have gone or may go to South Africa to serve with Her Majesty's forces during the present war there are some persons who are the holders of claims under the provisions of the Mineral Act; and whereas it is desirable that the said claims should be protected during the absence from British Columbia of said persons, while serving Her Majesty as aforesaid; and therefore resolved, that the mineral claims of any British Columbia volunteer serving Her Majesty in the present war be not open to location by any person during the absence of such volunteer upon said service, nor for a period of twelve months after the close of said war."

Hon. Mr. Cotton directed Mr. Speaker's attention to the fact that this was clearly out of order. The government would make suitable arrangements to accomplish the end sought by the resolution, with the spirit of which all members of the house would be in accord.

"Out of order," said Mr. Speaker.

PROVINCIAL LOAN ACT.

Mr. Helmcken moved that itemized returns be sent down of all expenses in connection with the floating of the loan authorized by the Provincial Loan Act, 1899.

This was agreed to.

RESPECTING A HEN PHEASANT.

Mr. Helmcken moved for "copies of the order in council remitting the fine imposed upon Mr. D. M. Galbraith, of Duncan, for an infraction of the Game Act, together with copies of the information upon which he was tried, and convicted, and of all material used or forwarded in support by the said D. M. Galbraith, or anyone on his behalf, to obtain the remission of the said fine."

The senior member for Victoria city explained that in his capacity as sponsor for the Game Act, and more particularly as protector of that noble bird, the hen pheasant, he felt it his duty to investigate the circumstances of this particular case. This Mr. Galbraith, he understood, to be a somewhat noted sportsman, inclining rather more to fish than to fowl. He had pleaded guilty to having a hen pheasant in his possession unlawfully, had been fined; and feeling depressed in consequence, had applied for and secured a remission of the fine. The object of the resolution was to obtain a disclosure of the material upon which the conviction had been made, and that upon which the fine had been remitted.

"Haven't you a question on the paper in this same case?" asked Hon. Mr. Cotton.

"I have," said Mr. Helmcken.

"Asking for information on the very subjects which are stated as facts for the basis of this resolution?"

"That's it," acquiesced Mr. Helmcken.

The resolution passed.

MINISTERS ANSWER QUESTIONS.

Mr. McPhillips asked the Minister of Mines: "What revenue was derived from the taking out of new free miners' certificates, or renewal of same, when were it not for the passage of the Mineral Act Amendment Act, 1899," free miners' certificates in such cases would have extended beyond the 31st of May, 1899?"

Hon. Mr. Hume replied: "The department of mines does not receive returns of the revenue derived from the issue of free miners' certificates, but it was not in any way affected by the operation of the Mineral Act Amendment Act, 1899."

Mr. Helmcken asked the Minister of Finance: "1. Is it a fact that an order in council has been passed remitting a fine, or a portion thereof, imposed upon Mr. Galbraith, of Duncan, for an infraction of the Game Act? 2. What official position does the said Mr. Galbraith occupy? 3. What is the date of—(a.) The imposition of the fine; (b.) The remission thereof. 4. What was the amount of the fine, and what was the amount remitted? 5. Why was the fine remitted?"

Hon. Mr. Cotton replied that the department of finance had no information on the subject, and suggested that the senior member for Victoria might apply to the Attorney-General.

Mr. Turner—Or the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, or the Minister of Agriculture!

Mr. Turner asked the Premier: "1. Has the government appointed anyone to position of government agent at Quesnelle Forks? 2. If so, who is appointed?"

Hon. Mr. Semlin replied: "There has been no appointment made."

Mr. McPhillips asked the Premier: "1. Is it the intention of the government to introduce an act to repeal the Placer Mining Act Amendment Act, 1899, commonly known as the Alien Exclusion Act? 2. If answered in the negative, or not answered at all, as being a matter of policy—will, if a private member introduces such act, the government permit its consideration by the house?"

Hon Mr. Semlin replied that as the first part of the question touched upon a matter of government policy, he was not in a position to answer. As for the second question—if such legislation were introduced, it should be by the government.

Mr. McPhillips asked the Attorney-General: "1. Has not the Placer Mining Act Amendment Act, 1899, prevented, and does it not exclude, all aliens from obtaining the rights of free miners, and also exclude all British and Canadian corporations from exercising the rights of free miners even if such corporations take out provincial letters of license to do business in British Columbia? 2. Has not the Placer Mining Act Amendment Act, 1899, prevented, and does it not prevent, all aliens and all British and Canadian companies from acquiring, purchasing, or taking the assignment of any placer claims?"

Mr. Speaker ruled the question out of order as involving an expression of legal opinion.

Mr. Turner asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works: "1. Has the government advertised for the construction of roads under the act, chap. 75, 1896, entitled the 'Development of Toll Roads Act'? 2. If so, for what roads?"

Hon. Mr. Cotton replied: "No."

Mr. Eberts asked the Minister of Finance: "How much was paid to the Agent-General in London during the year 1899, in addition to the sum voted by parliament?"

Hon. Mr. Cotton: "Nothing."

Mr. McPhillips asked the Attorney-General: "Is it intended to amend the Queen's Counsel Act, 1899, so as to make it conform to the legislation of Ontario, and provide in proper cases for the recognition of the Dominion appointments, and in particular recognizing gentlemen who have been and are now members of Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, and hold Dominion patents as Queen's Counsel?"

Hon. Mr. Henderson: "The question is objected to as involving a declaration of the government policy."

Mr. Turner asked the Minister of Finance: "Was that part of the personal property tax known as the mortgage tax collected for the year ending 30th June, 1899, or was any part of that tax collected?"

Hon. Mr. Cotton: "The tax was collected in accordance with the law." (Laughter.)

Mr. McPhillips asked the Attorney-General: "Is it intended to bring in an act to make clear and define how a judgment may be re-registered and renewed, during the conflict between the Land Registry Act and the Judgments Act, 1899?"

Hon. Mr. Henderson: "Yes."

Mr. McPhillips asked the Attorney-General: "Is it the intention to bring in an act striking out of all the railway acts (private) passed last session the following hurtful and non-Canadian clause, which aims at disturbance of national unity, viz: 'In case at any time the said railway is declared by the parliament of Canada to be a work for the general advantage of Canada, then all powers and privileges granted by this act or by the British Columbia Railway Act, shall thereupon cease and determine'—the above clause appearing in all private railway legislation of last session and inserted at the instance of the government?"

Mr. Speaker ruled the question out of order.

Col. Baker asked the Premier: "In the event of assistance being given by the government to provide a British Columbian contingent for service in South Africa, will the government insist on the contingent being kept intact as a British Columbia force, or as a British Columbia unit in any Canadian force which may be sent to South Africa?"

Hon. Mr. Semlin: "The government will do all in its power in that direction."

Hon. Mr. Henderson (sotto voce): "Which isn't very much—we can't attach conditions."

Mr. Turner asked the Minister of Finance: "1. What was the overdraft at bank on 30th June, 1899? 2. At what date was the net amount of the 1899 loan placed to the credit of the province? 3. What is the rate of interest that the bank allows the province on the credit balance since the date of that deposit?"

Hon. Mr. Carter-Cotton replied: "1. $1,159,164.93. 2. Deposited in Bank of British Columbia at Victoria on July 14, 1899, $243,250; July 17, 1899, $146,025; August 15, 1899, $242,750; August 16, 1899, $145,650; September 16, $485,250; October 5, 1899, $67,935; October 6, 1899, $10,052.80; and October 16, 1899, $2,089—a total of $1,343,001.80, to which is added, retained in London to meet interest and sinking fund and interest on railway bonds temporarily bearing interest at 2½ per cent.), $197,355.96, or a total of $1,540,357.76. 3. There having been no cash balance available, there has been no special deposit placed at interest."

Mr. Helmcken asked the Premier: "What reply, if any, was made by the government to the report of the committee of the honorable the Privy Council, dated 14th December, 1899, touching the report of the Minister of Justice upon the statutes of the province passed at the last session?"

Hon. Mr. Semlin: "No reply has been made."

RE COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

Mr. Helmcken inquired of the Attorney-General when he might expect to receive the return asked for in respect to the salaries of county court judges?

Hon. Mr. Henderson replied that the return would be presented as soon as possible.

Mr. Helmcken: "Well, that may be regarded by the honorable Attorney-General as an answer, but it isn't quite enough to suit me."

Hon. Mr. Henderson intimated that he could not speak with positiveness, but he hoped to be able to present the return in question early next week.

"Thank you," said Mr. Helmcken.

PRIVATE BILLS.

Bills for the incorporation of the Atlin Railway Co. (Mr. Kellie), and the Chilcat Pass Railway & Navigation Co. (Mr. Green) were introduced, read a first time and placed on the orders for second reading at the next sitting of the house.

And then the house adjourned.

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