

THE REGULATION OF COAL MINES

Socialist Motion for Bi-Weekly Payday Voted Down By House

(From Tuesday's Daily)

After a lengthy debate, and two divisions the premier's bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act was given third reading and passed yesterday afternoon in the legislature. The bill had to do with the boards of examiners maintained at the various collieries to examine applicants for certificates as coal miners. At the third reading stage, Mr. Hawththwaite (Nanaimo) brought in two amendments, one providing for a bi-weekly pay-day at the collieries, the other providing that an inquest should be held on the body of every coal miner killed as the result of an accident.

The premier declared that the amendments were not general to the matter of the bill, and were, therefore, out of order. The speaker, however, ruled in favor of the member for Nanaimo. The amendments were voted down by the house.

Four bills were passed at the afternoon sitting. These were a bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act (the premier); a bill to amend the Municipal Clauses Act (attorney-general); a bill to correct the official map of Alberni township (chief commissioner of lands); and a bill to amend the Bush Fire Act (chief commissioner of lands).

The Water Clauses Bill and the Public Service Bill were both before the committee of the whole house for some time, but little progress was made.

New Bills Introduced.

Mr. Williams (Newcastle) introduced a bill entitled "An act for the protection of workmen engaged in industrial operations." This was given first reading.

The attorney-general introduced two new bills, one to amend the Explosives Storage Act, and the other for the relief of the Armstrong Power and Light company, limited. Both were given first reading.

On motion of Mr. Macdonald (Rossland) it was resolved that all correspondence, documents and copies thereof relating to the recently constructed Rossland-Trail road be brought down to the house by the honorable the minister of public works.

The speaker announced his decision with regard to two amendments to the premier's bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act, introduced by Mr. Hawththwaite (Nanaimo) when the bill was in third reading stage. One of these was that wages should be paid to underground workers every two weeks; the other that an inquest should be held on the body of every underground miner who met death by accident. When these were brought on the premier raised a point of order, stating that the amendments did not come within the meaning of the bill.

The speaker sustained Mr. Hawththwaite. The Bi-Weekly Payday.

Mr. Hawththwaite then pressed his amendments. The premier said there was no disposition on the part of the government to interfere in the relations between employers and employees, except in cases of urgency, such as the eight-hour law and the employees in smelters who should be dangerous for the government to interfere in the internal management of commercial enterprises. A bill to the same effect had been introduced by the member for Fernie, and to speak of Mr. Hawththwaite's amendment was to speak of Mr. Ross' bill.

"I may say in dealing with this," said the premier, "that it is a mistake to imagine that our roads on the other side of the house alone have the interests of the workmen at heart. The great majority of the workmen in the province of British Columbia are the men who support this administration."

The premier then passed to Mr. Hawththwaite's second amendment, that dealing with inquests. Mr. Hawththwaite objected that this was another debate.

Mr. Macdonald (Rossland) said that the demand for the bi-weekly payday was an urgent one.

Mr. Macdonald (Rossland) said the bill either went too far or not far enough. There was no connection between "underground workers" and bi-weekly payday. He was in favor of Mr. Ross' bill but opposed to the amendment.

The motion to recommit the bill on this amendment was lost, 13 to 25. The division was: Mr. Macdonald, Brewster, Naden, Yoxton, Hall, Jones, Oliver, Ross, Williams, Hawththwaite, McNicoll and MacPhillips.

Nays: Tatlow, McBride, Bowser, Cotton, Ellison, Hunter, Manson, Behnen, Grant, Gifford, Macgowan, Garden, Taylor, Young, Hayward, McGuire, Mackay, Munro, Shatford and MacPhillips.

The Inquest Matter.

Mr. Hawththwaite (Nanaimo) brought up his second amendment, that regarding inquests. He said that by a recent amendment to the act it was left to the option of the coroner whether an inquest should be held or not. Accidents had occurred recently when the inquest should have been held. He charged the mine owners with a readiness to conceal the facts in such accidents.

The premier gave his reasons for opposing this amendment as two: (1) He did not think the occasion required legislation of the kind; and (2) if there was anything to be done it could be done by a departmental circular to the coroners. He said that a few years ago there had been regulation requiring coroners to hold an inquest in every case of death by accident, and the coroners had shown such zeal that there had been a great bill of expense to the government. Under the present administration where there is no such regulation, instructions were issued to carry out such investigations.

Mr. Williams (Newcastle) said that the provincial inspector of coal mines had nothing to do with the inquest. He said that while there had been a great financial drain on the province, it would be a good thing from the point of view of the relatives and friends of the deceased, giving valuable information in connection with claims under the Workmen's Compensation Act, it would also be very valuable.

This amendment also was lost on the division. Years: Oliver, Macdonald, Henderson, Munro, Jardine, Brewster, Williams, Hawththwaite, McNicoll, King, Naden, Hall, Easton, Jones and Yoxton.

Nays: Tatlow, McBride, Bowser, Cotton, Ellison, Ross, Shatford, McPhillips, Thomson, Hunter, Manson, Behnen, Grant, Gifford, Macgowan, Garden, Taylor, Fulton, Young, Hayward, McGuire, Mackay, Parson, Dacey.

The bill to amend the Municipal Clauses Act was given third reading and passed.

The bill to correct the official map of the Alberni township was given third reading and passed.

On report on the bill to amend the Bush Fire Act (Mr. Fulton) Mr. Williams (Newcastle) introduced the following amendment:

"Any farmer or settler clearing land adjoining or contiguous to lands held as wild land under the Assessment Act shall, upon satisfying the government agent for the district in which such lands are situated, obtain an order from such government agent requiring the owner of such wild lands to clear a satisfactory fire-guard around, or partly around, such wild lands, in case any owner refuses to comply with such order within a reasonable time, the government agent shall cause such guard to be made and shall assess the costs of the said work against such wild lands."

The chief commissioner said this was a drastic regulation and suggested that it be left to the timber commission for decision. He said that Mr. Williams' amendment was out of order, as it dealt with the expenditure of public money.

The speaker ruled the amendment out of order, and Mr. Williams appealed to the house. The speaker's ruling was sustained.

The bill was given third reading and passed.

The Water Clauses Bill.

At the report stage in the bill to amend the Timber Manufacture act, 1906, Mr. Fulton introduced an amendment providing that the export of piles, telegraph and telephone poles, posts and ties, should be permitted. This amendment was held over to allow its being printed.

The Water Clauses Bill was taken up in committee at section 145.

On section 148 Mr. Henderson (Yale) grounded on a certain "shall" which in his opinion should be "may." The chief commissioner held it "shall" and a division was called.

The amendment was lost, the original verb winning out by large majority.

Mr. Henderson also objected to the definition of "engineer" in the bill. He said that a mere fact of a man's being employed by a company made him an engineer. He wanted the word "engineer" struck out of the section providing that, in the case of companies clearing streams for driving logs, "the licensee, his engineer, surveyor, clerks, servants may enter into and upon Crown lands etc."

Mr. Henderson stated that he could name fifty competent engineers. The amendment was lost.

In a further section providing for the appointment by the Lieutenant-Governor in council of an engineer to examine and report on proposed undertakings and works, the words "or some other competent person" were added after "engineer" on motion of Mr. Henderson.

The committee rose and reported progress after considering section 155. The bill will be brought on for second reading in committee. The bill was not finished.

Mr. McPhillips (The Islands) moved adoption of the report on the bill to incorporate the B. C. Permanent Loan company. Mr. Henderson (Yale) moved his amendment cutting out securities of incorporated companies from the list of securities that may be dealt in by the company.

Mr. Henderson said the company had been registered under the Companies Act with a capital of ten millions. It now sought a reduction of capital to five millions, and enlarged powers. It sought to invest not only their paid up capital of a million and a half, but other sums in a different class of funds from those generally dealt in by trust companies. The securities asked for were those of any company with domestic incorporation or Canadian incorporation. They might invest, for example, in a mine and it was not well to allow a loan company to invest in a mine. The two classes, loan companies and gambling companies, should be kept apart.

Mr. McPhillips moved adjournment of the debate.

The House adjourned at 4:15.

Former M.P.P. Dead.

Sussex, N.B., March 8.—O. F. King, for several years a member of the legislature for Kings county, died yesterday at his home. He leaves a widow.

Stopped at Border.

Woodstock, Ont., March 9.—A young lady from Woodstock, who has been visiting her home here for the last few months, attempted to return to her position in Buffalo as a stenographer on Sunday night, but was stopped at Niagara Falls by United States immigration officers. The lady was referred to Washington.

Rate of Infantile Mortality.

London, March 10.—Mr. W. Robson, sanitary inspector to the urban district council of Leadgate, a small mining and iron manufacturing town in northwest Durham, advances, in a report which he has just made to the council, an original remedy for the high rate of infantile mortality which prevails in many parts of the country. Mr. Robson suggests that an act should be passed compelling the curfew bell to be rung in every town and city at 8 p.m., warning people, under penalty and with all children under twelve months old in bed at that hour, that would undoubtedly tend towards lowering the death-rate he says, his view being that such infantile mortality is due to the custom of keeping young children out of doors at hours when they ought to be in bed and asleep.

Claimed Damages For Flea-Bite.

London, March 10.—A good many singular claims have been made under the Workmen's Compensation act, but none quite so extraordinary as the one brought last week in the Cardiff county court. A carpenter who had been engaged in putting in a shop front at the Cardiff docks, was bitten by a flea, and as a result claimed that he was unable to follow his occupation. The plaintiff's solicitor explained that his client was bitten by the insect in the course of his work, and was unfortunately unable to get to a doctor's attendant, in his evidence, admitted that the plaintiff had told him of the flea-bite, and showed him his leg, and he went on to say, "It was more like the bite of a bulldog." Of course, an insect which can bite like a bulldog is not to be trifled with.

PLEASED WITH WORK OF LOCAL Y. M. C. A.

State Secretary of Washington Association Visits Victoria

(From Tuesday's Daily)

Chas. W. Wilcox, the state secretary of the Washington Young Men's Christian Association, was a visitor at the local association yesterday. Mr. Wilcox is an old friend of Secretary Brace, they having worked together at the big military encampments held once in two years in Washington, where the Y.M.C.A. under Mr. Wilcox's direction, has done a great work for the soldiers.

Mr. Wilcox expresses himself as greatly pleased with the progress of the Victoria association. "It is quite remarkable accomplishment when one porter last evening, that the officers of the Victoria association have been five hundred men and boys to ally themselves with the local association when it has so little to offer in the way of accommodation. The results of the efforts of the secretaries of the association are very creditable and give promise of great things as soon as an adequate building and equipment have been secured. To have trained a basketball team of this size to such a high degree of skill, as shown in the game on Friday night, is a remarkable accomplishment which no one considers the place the team has had to practice in. I predict that when Victoria gets a good building for her association the athletes of the city will bring home trophies galore."

"I have noted with much pleasure during my brief visit the high spirit of loyalty that is shown the Y.M.C.A. by the leading business men. This shows not only their good judgment and considerable knowledge of the work of this great organization in other places, but their real interest in the young men and boys of this beautiful city. I have talked with a number of your business men and they realize that Victoria is behind other cities of her class in this part of the country in the matter of a young men's building. This is the largest city on the whole Pacific coast that is now without a Y.M.C.A. building. There is now but one city of more than ten thousand people in the state of Washington that is without a building for young men run by the Y.M.C.A. and this city is considering the matter of securing one."

"No single institution, except the church and public school, forms a better advertisement for a city than a Y.M.C.A. building. People do not care to bring their children into a town where the moral sentiment is so high that the people do not care for the highest welfare of the young men and boys of the community. The work in the advertising matter of any city that it has a modern Y.M.C.A. building is to place the city in the progressive communities. In other words, it is a good advertisement and pays in dollars and cents. But after all, the largest benefit comes in the actual work performed by the association, and it is this that gives the satisfaction to those who are interested in the activities of the organization. I sincerely hope that before another year has passed the Victoria association will have a building of its own, and that it will be a credit to the city."

Ottawa, Mar. 9.—The Canadian National Association of Builders opened their convention here this afternoon and will conclude tomorrow.

COAL LANDS BOUGHT BY ENGLISH COMPANY

Said to Have Secured Four Thousand Acres in Nanaimo District

Nanaimo, March 10.—It is stated today that some 4,000 acres of coal lands in the Cedar, Cranberry and Oyster districts, adjacent to Nanaimo, have been purchased by a big syndicate.

Mr. Sandford, returned from England, has been in the city for some time negotiating the deal, and it is understood that everything has been satisfactorily arranged.

A special train, if the existing intentions are fulfilled, will then be engaged to convey the delegates from this city to Nanaimo on Saturday, leaving here in the morning, and pick up en route all those who are interested in this important movement, and who can make it convenient to attend the convention, including not only all the delegates, but also the residents of the intervening towns. It is hoped that the board of trade, reported that they had already received guarantee from lead- ing citizens of over \$5,000 for the term of two years, making a total of considerably over \$6,000, which is already in sight for the purpose of carrying on the useful purposes that the league has in view. The canvassing members of the league were unanimous in expressing their delight with the very friendly and sympathetic reception which had been universally accorded them in their town, as the amounts in question were in every single instance quickly and freely subscribed.

In order, however, that this very necessary work, if the objects of the league are to be fully attained, may be hastened, the business portion of the city was yesterday afternoon divided into four districts, and an energetic canvassing committee will be at once placed in charge of each of these districts.

Died on Street.

Ottawa, March 8.—Geo. Labatt, brother of the London brewer, died suddenly on the street tonight. He was aged about 70 years.

Walsh and Stanley.

Boston, March 8.—A. P. Bettinson, of the National Sporting Club, London, cabled Jimmy Walsh, of Newton, today that Digger Stanley has agreed to box Walsh fifteen rounds in that city on May 10. The weight will be 118 pounds, which figures are recognized in England as the bantam weight limit under the recent classifications adopted by the National Sporting Club.

ACTIVE OPERATIONS OF ISLAND LEAGUE

Projected Mass Meeting at Nanaimo—The Local Branch's Success

(From Tuesday's Daily)

The members of the Vancouver Island Development League held a meeting at the Victoria theatre last night, at the present juncture, as they have been for some time past, busily engaged in getting into the hands of the people the leaflets and pamphlets which they have been collecting for descriptive pamphlets, as well as towards the perfecting of their separate organizations. Arrangements are also now being made to hold a general meeting of all the branches of the league in the city of Nanaimo.

Although Saturday, the 20th instant, is suggested as being a very suitable date, the exact date will be fixed by the local branch, and the active representative of the Commercial club of Portland, Oregon, sends word whether the date will suit his present engagements.

It is, however, probable that Mr. Richardson will be able to reach the city on Friday, the 19th instant, in which event he will address a mass meeting of the citizens in the Victoria theatre the same evening.

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The local branch of the Vancouver Island Development League held a very important session yesterday, the president, Hon. E. G. Prior, in the chair. Simon Leiser, the president of the board of trade, reported that they had already received guarantee from lead- ing citizens of over \$5,000 for the term of two years, making a total of considerably over \$6,000, which is already in sight for the purpose of carrying on the useful purposes that the league has in view. The canvassing members of the league were unanimous in expressing their delight with the very friendly and sympathetic reception which had been universally accorded them in their town, as the amounts in question were in every single instance quickly and freely subscribed.

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THOSE IN SEARCH OF MILLINERY INTELLIGENCE SHOULD SEE

Young's Millinery Display

If you are interested in the millinery Paris, London and New York well dressed women are wearing and have not seen our fascinating display, do so at once. This week's showing includes all the latest and most advanced ideas from the best fashion centres. While the brimless hat is much in evidence, the Directoire and the Empire still continue, and many hats have picture-brims like in some of the old portraits. Always, though, the brim shades down over the face "helmet fashion" to quote a masculine comparison. One of the pleasing originalities is a compromise between the "bonnet" and the "hat"—a more youthful style, perhaps, than some of the others and one which promises to suit the majority of pretty faces and graceful figures and to idealize those to whom Dame Nature has not endowed with much beauty. Feathers strike smartly upward making a definite note of contrast from out the mass of blossoms. Ribbons? Oh, yes, the ribbons are charming—broad with full bows and in some cases, with long streamers to tie under the chin or drape the shoulder.

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NANAIMO CORRECTS ALARMING REPORTS

No Smallpox Visitation Such As That Described in the Late Rumor

Nanaimo, March 8.—Alarming reports have been going through the province about the prevalence of smallpox in Nanaimo. In some localities the report that there are hundreds of cases of the disease in the city have been accepted as correct. As a matter of fact these reports are grossly exaggerated. There are at the present moment a few cases of smallpox in the city, which the physicians are in some doubt whether to designate smallpox or chickenpox. Some

Quebec: Stabbing Case. Quebec, March 8.—A young man named Nolin was stabbed in the abdomen in a quarrel on King street tonight with Alfred Dube. Nolin was taken to the hospital and is in a critical condition. Dube was arrested.

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