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PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Mr. Neill of Alberni Ably Exposes a Timber Lease Scandal in the Cowichan-Alberni District.

New Westminster City Relief Bill Passed Second Reading—Will Defend the Province's Rights.

Monday, Jan. 30, 1899.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock, and prayers were read by Rev. J. C. Speer.

MEMOIRS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Higgins presented the eighth report of the Committee on Standing Orders and Private Bills, which reported the preamble of the bill to incorporate the Chartered Commercial Company of Vancouver approved.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Green (Slocan, govt.) presented a petition from A. H. Pitt and others of Sandon relative to the mineralogical exhibition at the Earl's Court exhibition, but Mr. Speaker ruled it out of order.

MOTIONS.

Mr. Kellie obtained leave to introduce an act to amend the Trust Act, 1888. Mr. Helmcken had the following motion on the order paper:

Whereas a bill intitled, "an act relating to the employment of Chinese and Japanese persons on works carried on by the Government or by private individuals," was passed by the assembly of the province of British Columbia, which said bill was reserved for the assent of His Excellency in Council by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of this Province;

And whereas the said act was duly assented to by the Honorable the Minister of Justice for the Dominion of Canada, who by his report dated 15th October, 1897, was not prepared to recommend that the said bill should come into effect by reason of any action on the part of His Excellency the Governor-General;

And whereas the legislative assembly of this province passed an act, intitled, "an act to amend the act intitled, 'an act relating to the employment of Chinese and Japanese persons on works carried on by the Government or by private individuals,'" which act is known as the "Labor Regulation Act, 1898";

And whereas the Emperor of Japan has protested against the said act to the government of Great Britain, which said protest has been forwarded to the Governor-General of Canada for consideration;

And whereas, in and by a report of the committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on the 17th December, 1898, it is suggested that the provincial government might be prepared to recommend the repeal of the said act;

And whereas, under and by virtue of the terms of the "British North America Act," the said province has extensive authority to deal, inter alia, with property and civil rights in the province;

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the opinion of this house, that as the said act is conceived to be in the best interests of this province, the house is not prepared to pass an act to repeal the said act.

Mr. Semlin asked the hon. gentleman to allow the matter to stand over for a day or two, the government not having had time to go fully into the matter. Mr. Helmcken had no objection to this, and it was so agreed.

Mr. Macpherson moved that an order of the house be granted for a return of the late government and Mr. McKenzie & Mann, in connection with the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern Railway; also the Stikine-Teslin Railway.

Mr. Helmcken had a suggestion to make to the effect that he desired for copies of all correspondence relative to said agreement and to another agreement respecting the construction of the trail from Glenora to Teslin Lake, and also to the application of W. McKenzie & D. Mann relative to the acquisition of the crown lands at Kitimat.

Mr. Semlin thought the hon. member was making a mistake in including the late government, and Mr. Helmcken said he was willing to amend it as suggested, and leave the land part of it for a subsequent motion. Agreed to.

A TIMBER LEASE SCANDAL.

Mr. Neill moved the following resolution:

That a select committee of this house, consisting of Messrs. Robertson, R. Smith, Robertson, Clifford and the mover, be appointed to enquire into the circumstances attending the granting, on August, 1892, of leases No. 7 and No. 9, Cowichan-Alberni district, to the Toronto & British Columbia Lumber Company, Limited, the company having to the said company not having built a mill in connection with lease No. 7, and to enquire into the circumstances attending the payment by the said company on 9th June, 1898, of the sum of \$15,000, in alleged satisfaction of arrears of rental previously stated to amount to \$17,748.85; with power to send for persons and papers and to examine witnesses under oath.

They had been allowed to make a deposit of \$15,000 in full discharge of an indebtedness of \$17,748.85, whereas poor man would have been allowed to pay in full. A commission had been asked for during the time of the late government, and it had been refused on a public plea of poverty. The motion would be opposed by the mover for Southeast Kootenay General, and denounced it as "a trap."

Mr. Neill was interrupted by Col. Baker, who continued an able and pointed speech after Colonel Baker had said that he had no great objection to the motion, and that he would encourage enterprise in the late administration had done so much to encourage this particular motion was adopted.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS.

Mr. Robertson asked the Hon. the Attorney-General:

1. What is the total amount of fees paid by the government since the

August last to F. B. Gregory, barrister, Victoria?

2. In respect of what matters?

3. What are the amounts of the various bills for services rendered in each matter, and at what amount allowed by the department?

Hon. Mr. Martin replied: (1) \$720. (2) In connection with the prosecution of Belle Adams, Knowles, Sleur and Morell. (3) Belle Adams's case, amount charged, \$750; amount allowed, \$600; other cases in lump, amount charged, \$200; allowed, \$120.

Mr. Higgins asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:

1. What action, if any, was taken by the late government to bring to the notice of the Dominion government a resolution of this house of the 14th April, 1898, protesting against the granting of any charters for railways in British Columbia, unless such railway companies have first severally obtained a charter from the provincial legislature?

2. And if the notice of the Dominion government was drawn to the protest, what answer, if any, was received from said government?

Hon. Mr. Semlin said in reply that a copy of the said resolution had been forwarded for the inspection of the Dominion government, and the receipt of the same was duly acknowledged.

BILLS IN FINAL STAGES.

The following bills were then passed through the third reading: Bill regulating appointments to boards (No. 22), Power of Attorney Bill (No. 23), Bills of Sale Bill (No. 25), and Partnership Bill (No. 25), the bills being finally passed and now await only the formal assent of His Honor.

THE TORRENS SYSTEM.

The house went into committee on the Real Property Bill (No. 8), with hon. member for New Westminster, Mr. Henderson, in the chair. Commencing at No. 100, the sections were passed through with but formal amendments of wording suggested by Hon. the Attorney-General. The schedules, which are quite voluminous, were also considered, and at 4:30 Hon. Mr. Martin moved that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again at the next session of the house. All the schedules except T and U, were committed, and the eight amendments made will be taken up and reconsidered in short order to-morrow.

STEAM BOILERS INSPECTION.

The committee stage on this measure was postponed.

CARIBOO-OMINECA CO'S BILL.

Hon. Mr. Cotton, in moving the second reading of this bill, said it was necessary, as the company had been granted rights which are not within the operation of the British Columbia Railway Act. He could not imagine that any objection would be raised by members of the other side of the house. The company had been given the power of building stage roads and wagon roads, and other means of transportation, and it was proposed under this act to amend this and not to give them the power to construct and operate railways. The bill will be committed at the next sitting.

NEW WESTMINSTER RELIEF.

Hon. Mr. Cotton moved the second reading of this measure, and in doing so gave a few words of explanation. He reminded the house that he had visited the Royal City, which had resulted not only in a heavy loss to a large number of residents but also in a large loss to the corporation. In fact the corporation was the heaviest loser, not only by the destruction of a large amount of property, but also by the destruction of a great deal of corporation property, such as sidewalks, fire halls, the city hall, the library, and also an injury to the water works and the electric light works, necessitating considerable expense in repairs. Their revenue was considerably decreased, and their power to pay their obligations was greatly impaired, and some financial relief was needed by them. As to the ability of New Westminster to meet their obligations in the future, when the city had no question, but at the present time something in the way of relief was needed. Under the circumstances and after a great deal of consideration and negotiation with the debenture holders, they having interviewed the government and asked if the government would approve of such a measure and put it through as a government measure, the government had agreed to the purpose of avoiding any unnecessary delay and of saving the city of New Westminster undue expense.

Mr. Robertson said that the corporation of New Westminster to issue two new kinds of debentures. Quoting section 4, Mr. Cotton explained the meaning fully; the provision is made that not more than two-fifths of the interest which may fall due upon the debentures, temporary debentures bearing interest not exceeding 5 per cent., nor payable before December 31st, 1899, may also be issued and agreed to. One good feature of the bill was the opportunity given the corporation of changing the present system of investment of the sinking fund. It has been proven that the present plan is full of danger. The investment of the funds with a real estate mortgage, with a steadily falling value of money, made it difficult to obtain enough to carry out what was calculated upon when the loan was arranged. This had been the case in Vancouver. By the arrangement provided for in this bill this will be done away with, and the only provision will be made by having so many debentures drawn by lot in the same way as many foreign loans are disposed of. This will do away with the gross and net debts, as at present known, and the only debt will be the net debt.

Colonel Baker was sure every mem-

ber of the house would join most heartily in the attempt to provide relief for the city of New Westminster, and the question was about how it was to be done. He wished to know, for instance, if the commissioners are to provide relief to the city council, and also wished that time should be given the house to consider the bill before it was committed.

The second reading was agreed to, and Mr. McBride, Dewdney, rose to discuss the matter, but was informed that the third reading was passed. Mr. Speaker pointed out that the usual practice had been adopted, and if it was necessary for Mr. McBride to speak the bill would have to be rung. Hon. Mr. Martin objected to the Speaker's ruling being disregarded. Colonel Baker wanted a motion to be put to test the feeling of the hon. member for the city, suggesting he should be compelled to refuse him permission to do so; Hon. Joseph Martin promptly objected, and Mr. McBride equally promptly refused.

ASHCROFT WATER, ETC., BILL.

When the report of the committee on the bill intitled "an act to incorporate the Ashcroft Water, Electric & Improvement Co. came up, Hon. Mr. Cotton moved to amend section 26 of the bill by adding to the said section the words "and shall also have the power of supplying water to consumers for domestic, mining, manufacturing and irrigation purposes within the said area."

The amendment was agreed to, and the report of the committee adopted, and the third reading set for the next sitting of the house.

RAILWAY CHARTERS.

The house went into committee on the British Columbia Railway Bill (No. 8), with hon. member for East Yale (Mr. Price Edlison) in the chair, for the purpose of reconsidering clause 22, which was inserted in the bill by the railway committee, and which reads as follows:

24. In case at any time the said railway is deemed to be a public utility 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.

Hon. the Attorney-General was strongly in favor of the amendment, and that it was absurd for a company to come to the province, obtain a charter and then go to the Dominion and obtain another which freed them from any control, even legislative, of the province. Mr. Martin said the government would always be spending any interference with provincial rights by the Dominion authorities, and the present system simply amounted to "what Colonel Baker and Mr. Helmcken were opposed to the clause very bitterly, and Mr. Eberts put in a few words against it too, but the bill was finally reported complete, with amendments the report to be considered to-morrow.

The house rose at 6 o'clock.

Tuesday, January 31, 1899.

The most important and the most interesting subject which engaged the attention of the legislators of British Columbia to-day was the bill to afford relief to the city of New Westminster, which passed through the committee stage, the third reading and was finally passed. There was a very interesting discussion upon one section, the others being agreed to with little or no comment, the point at variance in the case referred to being section 22, which raised the question as to what power the corporation should have in the disposal of the amount of money raised on hand or hereafter to be contributed.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock, and prayers were read by Rev. J. C. Speer.

MOTIONS.

Mr. Robertson (Cowichan, opposition) moved that an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting him to send to this House a return showing—

1. What officials, since the 8th August, 1898, have been dismissed, and from what office.

2. Names of such officials.

3. Length of service by each such official.

4. Length of notice of dismissal in each case.

5. Reason for dismissal in each case.

6. What appointments have been made by the government since August 8th, 1898.

7. Names of the appointees and to what office appointed.

Hon. Mr. Semlin said that while the government had no objection to give the whole of the information, he thought that perhaps if the hon. member thought it over he would agree that section 5 had better be eliminated. Of course while the government will bring the information down if the House asks for it, but he would not be responsible for the reasons for the dismissal of an officer which neither he nor his friends would care to have made known.

Mr. Robertson was willing to withdraw the section objected to, but Colonel Baker rushed into the breach and expressed the opinion that it was quite easily within the power of the government to bring down the information covered by that section, and that the members of the House, without being published.

Hon. the Attorney-General disagreed with the opinion of the hon. member that the returns were available to the newspaper reporters and they would publish such as they thought fit. Col. Baker thereupon got into a small sized wrangle with the Attorney-General, holding the view that the government should not be obliged to furnish the information sacred from the prying eyes of the newspaper men, but Hon. Mr. Martin maintained that returns brought down in the Dominion House the reporters had the privilege and had it here. Hon. Col. Baker claimed that the Dominion House was not under May and was informed that it was and that his contention was nonsense.

Col. Baker insisted that the information could be brought down for the exclusive use of the members, but Mr. Macpherson (Vancouver, government) reminded the House of his experience had with Hon. Col. Baker while that gentleman was provincial secretary, when some returns were asked for which the government were unwilling to bring down because they did not wish publication of them. When Col. Baker said it could be done because of the same reasons now urged by the Attorney-General, and said that any member who wished to see such returns could do so at his (the provincial secretary's) office only. His argument then was not the same as his argument now.

After some more discussion, in which Col. Baker urged again that the correspondence showing the reasons why the members of the discharged officials must be brought before the House, Hon. Mr. Semlin agreed that it was had enough for a man to be discharged for bad conduct without the particulars of that discharge being made public.

Ultimately Col. Baker bethought himself to ask if the government would be willing to show the members of the House the correspondence in question, and learning that of course they would, section 5 was eliminated on the motion

of General Kincaid (Cariboo, government), who reminded Colonel Baker that it was quite usual for information relating to the discharge of employees in other branches of the public service to be withheld from the public.

REAL PROPERTY BILL.

The adjourned committee stage on the Torrens system of registration was postponed at the request of Hon. the Attorney-General.

STEAM BOILERS INSPECTION.

The adjourned committee stage on the Steam Boiler Inspection Bill was also postponed.

CARIBOO-OMINECA CO.

The house went into committee on the Cariboo-Omineca Chartered Co.'s Bill, with the hon. member for Alberni (Mr. Neill) in the chair. The bill passed through committee without amendment, the committee rose and reported, the report was adopted and the third reading set for the next sitting of the House.

NEW WESTMINSTER RELIEF.

The House went into committee on the bill to afford relief to the Municipal Corporation of New Westminster, with Mr. Deane (N. Yale) in the chair.

The various sections went through with remarkable celerity, there being absolutely no criticism of any of them being made until the last but one was reached. On section 15 Hon. Mr. Cotton explained that the debenture holders had expressed their willingness to coincide with the wishes of the corporation and he had received a letter from the clerk of New Westminster corporation enclosing a certified copy of a telegram received from the Mayor of New Westminster, who represents \$500,000 of debentures, expressing satisfaction with the proposals contained in section 20, which provides for an allowance of a rebate of interest on the debentures to all who pay their taxes levied in 1898 and previous years by July 1st, 1898. The amendment provided for a similar rebate on the interest which would otherwise be charged on such taxes.

When clause 22 was reached providing that all moneys received by the corporation for relief purposes not yet expended and any that may hereafter be received may be used by the corporation for such purposes of the corporation or for such charitable purposes as might be determined by by-law, Hon. Mr. Cotton moved an amendment to enable the corporation to use such money for such purposes as the council might determine. The hon. minister said that this clause would be worked, did not apply to the subject matter of the act. As the members of the House would be aware, large amounts of money had been raised from all parts of the country for the relief of the people of the Royal City. That money was sent to the Corporation, and it was not until the relief committee was formed, consisting not only of the mayor and corporation, but also of many prominent citizens, and the money was handed over to the charge of that relief committee, but since then the corporation has been advertising that they would like to have the money retained and managed by the corporation. They had not agreed to that, and that thought perhaps some persons might claim they were handling money which did not belong to the corporation. They therefore left the matter to the hands of the House to decide. Mr. Cotton agreed that that was the wisest course, that is, to leave the money in the hands of the corporation.

Col. Baker objected to the money being used for purposes not intended by the original clause proposed to be amended, and the corporation to enable them to use for charitable purposes.

To meet the objection of the leader of the opposition it was proposed that the clause should be amended so that the corporation the right to apply the money to any purpose "within the meaning of report of the council shall from time to time determine."

Hon. Mr. Martin thought that this would be just as far as he could go, which was objected to. The money was not given for charitable purposes generally, but only for such as arose out of the fire. As he had ventured to prophesy would be the case, altogether too much money had been received by the corporation to enable them to meet the necessities of the case and they find themselves with \$20,000 or more after every reasonable case of necessity had been met. There were two courses open for adoption, either to return the money to the landlords or to allow the corporation to devote it to corporation purposes. It should be remembered that the fire had been a great loss to the corporation in the destruction of corporation property. The city was not in good financial circumstances, and the hon. member thought that the money for the relief of the citizens at large.

Hon. Col. Baker thought there was no argument in what the Attorney-General had said and was told by that gentleman that it was not possible for him to return the money to the landlords, and intelligence necessary to enable him to understand the argument. Colonel Baker still maintained that the money should be used only for the purpose of relieving the people who had suffered. There might be many who had suffered, but he would not be responsible for the reasons for the statement that the money had been raised for the purpose of rebuilding or other corporation property.

Hon. Mr. Price Edlison (Vancouver, government) assured the leader of the opposition that a good proportion of the money raised in Vancouver had been contributed for the purpose of relieving the distress occasioned either by the destruction of public buildings or otherwise.

Another resolution was proposed by Hon. Mr. Cotton, worded so that the

Weather Changes

Peculiarly weakening to the human system are sudden changes of weather. Taking cold is as dangerous as taking a fever. Colds impair the vitality and if allowed to run result in general and permanent debility. Every cough brings on a slight congestion of the lungs and a sufficient number of such congestions injure the structure. This is the invitation which consumption is awaiting for. The germs which float in the air find ready lodgment in the inflamed air passages and begin their work of destruction. Under proper treatment and with proper care for the general health the tubercular bacilli may be thrown off and the affected parts healed like any ordinary wound. The unfailing specific for incipient consumption is Shiloh's Consumption Cure, a standard remedy which has been used in successful professional practice for nearly half a century. The following testimonial from Mrs. C. H. West, of Farina, Ill., is one of many:

"S. C. Wells Co., Le Roy, N. Y. Gentlemen: I have used Shiloh's Consumption Cure in my family constantly for the past thirteen years. Have used it for whooping cough, croup and colds with perfect satisfaction. My brother-in-law who was pronounced to be incurable, was completely cured by using it, and is a strong well man to-day. We are never without it; it is our standard-remedy."

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AFRAID SHE WOULD LOSE HER BOY.

He was wasting away with a terrible Cough. Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup cured the Cough and restored his health.

It takes the life out of a mother to see her child—the idol of her heart—slipping away, succumbing to a cruel Cough that all the remedies she has tried won't cure. Mrs. Jasper Singer of Burgessville, Ont., has had a trying experience and gladly gives an account of it for the benefit of Canadian mothers. This is what she says: "My little boy of a year and four months old took a heavy cold and he did nothing but bones and hardly ate anything. I thought quite a few times I would lose him. I tried Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. The first bottle helped him wonderfully and the third bottle completed the cure. I would advise all mothers to give their little ones Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup as it is so pleasant to take and so effective." Price 25c. All dealers.

AFRAID SHE WOULD LOSE HER BOY.

He was wasting away with a terrible Cough. Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup cured the Cough and restored his health.

The Atlin Short Line Railway & Navigation Co.'s bill was committed, the committee reported the bill complete with amendments and the report will be considered at the next sitting of the House. The North Star and Arrow Lake Railway Bill received its second reading and will be committed at the next sitting.

Mr. Helmcken moved the second reading of the Kamloops & Atlin Railway Bill, but the Hon. the Premier desired some further particulars as to the route proposed to be taken in order to reach the Cariboo road. This information Mr. Helmcken was not at the moment prepared to give, but said he would obtain a map for the information of members to-morrow, and it was agreed to leave the second reading over until the next sitting.

The Vancouver Northern & Yukon Railway Bill was brought up for a second reading by Mr. Macpherson, who briefly described the route proposed to be followed, saying that the engine of the company assured him it would open up a valuable agricultural region, and the committee stage set for the next sitting of the House.

Mr. Prentice moved the second reading of the British Columbia Tobacco Bill, the object of which is the consolidation

money might be applied for "the purpose of relief and the carrying on of municipal relief." Mr. Martin said he was prepared to stand by the original clause proposed to be amended, but he departing from it simply because it had been criticized. He could see no reason for doing in an underhand way what the original clause proposed to do in a straight open and honest way. If that amendment was adopted it would mean the original clause proposed to be amended as had been rendered destitute by the fire. If they employed others and paid them the courts could enjoin them. Mr. Baker could see anything to object to in the amendment, but Hon. Premier Semlin pointed out that a goodly sum was given to the corporation to amend the clause proposed to be amended, and he believed therefore the corporation should have the management of it. The city had recently elected a new civic government, which had their confidence, and he could see no fairer way to deal with the matter.

The discussion continued some time and was finally disposed of by a proposition from the Attorney-General that the Vancouver bill be made ready for the purpose of relieving the distress occasioned either by the destruction of public buildings or otherwise.

Another resolution was proposed by Hon. Mr. Cotton, worded so that the

of the Burrard Inlet and New Westminster Co. and the Nelson Company, the stock of the one company having already been acquired by the other. The second reading was agreed to and the bill will be committed at the next sitting.

MASTER AND SERVANT.

Mr. Macpherson wished to have the order for the third reading of this measure discharged and the bill re-committed in order to consider certain proposed amendments, but as Col. Baker objected to this being done to-day it stood over until the next sitting.

MR. KIDD (DEION, GOVERNMENT) in moving the second reading of the Noxious Weeds Bill, briefly explained that the object of the measure was the consolidation of the two already existing acts dealing with the subject. It was desired to extend the scope of the act to make it apply to other noxious weeds than those enumerated in the present statute. He instanced particularly tumbling mustard in regard to which Professor Fletcher had spoken in the Okanagan valley, recommending the settlers there to take steps to exterminate it because of the extent to which the people of Ontario had suffered from it. Mr. Price Edlison corroborated this.

Hon. the Premier said he had no desire to oppose the second reading of the bill, he would aid anything which would tend in the direction of the destruction of noxious weeds, but he was afraid hon. gentlemen would find they are undertaking something they will be unable to carry out, something that is beyond the power of the legislature. He pointed out that the seeds of these weeds exist to a great extent in the mountains surrounding the country, and every shower has the effect of washing them down and so spreading them. In a level country this was different. He supported the second reading, but for the reasons mentioned he could not hold out any hope that the bill would accomplish what was aimed at.

Mr. Booth (N. Victoria, opposition) thought something might be done towards suppressing a weed such as the tumbling mustard, which had just been introduced into the province. He thought, however, that if the stringent measures of the bill were enforced, it would have the result of ruining every farmer in the province. He did not believe in interference with a weed which bore a heavy seed, which simply confined itself to a small area.

The second reading was agreed to and the committee stage set for the next sitting of the House.

At this stage the New Westminster Relief Bill came in from the printing office as amended, was read a third time, and finally passed.

The House rose at 5:20 o'clock.

RETURNS.

Hon. the Finance Minister brought down the correspondence relating to the dismissal of Gold Commissioner Sibbald,