THE VICTORIA WEEKLY TIMES, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1894.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

6

Hon, Col. Baker's Land Scheme Discussed in 'the House.

EIGHT LONG HOURS DEVOTED TO IT

Mr. Beaven's Motion Defeated After Long Debate in Which Almost Every Member Took Part-Very Little Other Busifiess Transacted. asserted.

Thursday, Feb. S. The Speaker took the chair at 2

o'clock. Mr. Croft presented a petition from

the Brunette Sawmill Company. Petitions from Wm. Fowler and F. It would not be fair to the members of the house or the government to bring the P. Bishop (re assessment mortgages), and John N. Muir, for repeal of secpapers piece-meal. The papers would be tion 56 of the "Public School Act." e complete until the bill was ready. were received.

Mr. Croft presented the fourth report ney-general as usual had been winding of the public accounts committee. Mr. Martin presented a report from to the point. The attorney-general said the private bills committee stating that rules and orders had been comin effect that he would bring the papers down when he felt like it, and no sooner. olied with in reference to the applica-By allowing the motion to pass the govtions for private bills from the Cariboo and Horse Fly Hydraulic Mining Com-

peries, the Ashcroft and Cariboo Railbefore the bill was introduced. By not way, Sumas Dyking Company, Nanaobeying the order of the house the atto imo and Vancouver Telegraph Company, nev-general was insulting every member McLean Bros, Kaslo and Slocan Railway and the Halls Mines Company. of the house. The report was adopted.

Kitchen presented a petition Mr. from the township of Chilliwhack to He supposed that hereafter members validate a loan by-law re drainage of Big Prairie.

Mr. Croft presented a petition from the they wanted papers. Brunette Sawmill Company to perfect the incorporation of the company. Hon. Col. Baker presented a return

of all orders-in-council authorizing the brought down until they were ready. allowance of a draw back on rebate on royalties on any piles, spars or timber, with the amount of the same allowed following division: and the name of the company or person McKenzie, Sword, Kitchen, to whom the rebate has been granted. Brown, Foster, and Keith-10. Hon, Mr. Vernon presented the report Nays-Messus. Baker, Pooley, Punch, Horne, Smith, Watt, Davie, Vernon, of the chief commissioner of Lands and Works for the year ending December

31st. 1893. Hon. Mr. Turner presented a return derson, Fletcher-19. of the cost of the land expropriated for the government buildings, the amount of the contract and the work not to be dcne by contract as follows: "1. Exfollows: propriation of land, \$56,206. 2. Contract ernment to repeal so much of the per-No. 1, foundation, etc., \$54,790; extras, scnal property tax enactment as relates \$1,552; contract No. 2, \$567,986; for iron girders, \$5,891.75; total,\$630,219.75. 3 (a) The contracts let include everything requisite for complete construction and fittings of the building, and also comprise a considerable amount of which comprise a considerable amount of work which it is usual to classify under the head of furniture. (b) The cost of laying out the grounds has not yet been considered, and will depend upon the amcunt appropriated for the service at a future date."

Hon. Mr. Beaven rose to a question of privilege. When the house adjourn-1892, page 19; and 1893, page 35ed on Tuesday the attorney-general was asked when the house would receive tions have been asked by private memthe papers in connection with the Nabers and answered by ministers of the kusp and Slocan Railway. The attorcrown. May, 9th edition, pages 354-5, ney-general did not treat the request says that "A question may be asked conwith much consideration, in fact he had cerning the intention of the government One of the gravest breeches of the in any matter of legislation or adminis-privilege of the house was committed tration, but not as to their abstract of whitewash to make the public believe treated the house as if it was a nullity. when any minister of the crown declined to bring down papers that the hous had requested. The governor in his speech said the papers would be brought down' and later the house had passed a motion for a return of the papers. The motion was passed without a dissenting voice. If the attorney-general did not think the papers should be brought down he should have opposed the motion when it was introduced. One of the privileges of the house was to ask for the return of peapers bearing on public matters. Unless the members obtained all the information they could they would not be doing their duty to their Mining Company. constituents. He had heard many enquiries about the government's intention the game act. to guarantee the principal of the bonds of other railway companies, mentioned in the railway aid act. He could not think that the members of the house would allow any minister of the crown to set cheir orders at defiance. It would be no legislature at all if it did not look after the interest of the people. He did not care how insulting the attorney-general was to him personally, but when an insult was offered to him it was an insult to his constituents. No legislature with any independence would allow the attorney-general, or any one else, to say the coal mines regulation act. that he would bring down papers that they had asked for, when the wanted to the Game Protection act. and no sooner. He moved the following resolution: "Whereas on the 18th of January last the legislature was informed that the government, acting under the authority of the railway aid act, 1893, gave a provincial guarantee of interest on the bonds of the Nakusp and Slocan railway company, and that in arranging the details of the agreement with the company the alternative right of guaranteeing the bonds of the company, both as to principal and interest, had been reserved, and the papers upon the subject would be laid before the house; and whereas on the 31st of January last the house requested that copies of all orders in council, and other papers in connection with the Nakusp and Slocan railway, be placed be forefore it; and whereas the legislature so far has not received any of the papers upon this important subject, but on the contrary, the attorney-general when questioned as to the probability of their early reception by the house, gave from his ment office at Donald, B. C., addressed place in the assembly an evasive and unsatisfactory reply; be it therefore resolved, that this house requires an immediate compliance with the promise given at the opening of the session with respect to the papers upon the subject of the all round, exclusive of the townsile. guarantee of the interest, or of the proposed guarantee of the interest and the principal of the bonds of the Nakusp and Slocan railway company, and with its resolution of the 31st ultimo with respect to information regarding the same railway. Hon. Mr. Beaven continuing said the motion was a simple recital of fact. By passing it the legislature would be simply asserting its rights. It was the instance that he knew of in which a minister set at defiance the wishes of legislature for the production of the certain papers. He felt that every member of the legislature, whether a govern-ment supporter or otherwise, would therefore resolved, that this house views ment supporter of outer and in the rights of the house. With disupprobation and regret the use i tion of the provincial secretary and the that they occupied. A minister had em- Kitchen had any feeling of honesty when Baker scandal. What will be the next

This was a matter of principle. The by a minister of the crown of his official members should throw off the shackles position in the province, and of the offi-with which they are bound on general cial position of an agent of the government. Nothing could be he occupied to boom a private enterprise. questions and demand their rights and ment, in order to assist in promoting in made out of the point that the document and the rights of the people whom they Great Britain a land speculation of this represent. They should not allow a character. Great Britain a land speculation of this not of a private circulation only. It was Hon. Mr. Davie had mentioned certain not of a private nature. Nothing had public men who were connected with prirepresent. They should not allow a character.

tryrannical minister to insult them. In declining to bring down the papers the was one of 'the greatest importance. government made the people believe that The resolution set forth most of the there was something to hide. The attorfacts of the case but there were other ney-general had been asked a polite facts that were not mentioned in it. He produced a copy of the Times with the uestion and he had answered in a way that he had never before heard a mem-Cranbrook estate prospectus in it. Hon, Col. Baker-Who put the prospecber answered. Party lines should be

tus in the Times. thrown off and the rights of the house Hon. Mr. Beaven-The hon. gentleman might just as well ask me who put it Hon. Mr. Davie said the papers would in the London Times. be brought down in due time and they

Hon. Col. Baker wanted a copy of the would not be brought down sooner. London Times produced. There had been no breech of privilege or Hon. Mr. Beaven said he had heard neglect of the order of the house. The

that the prospectus was published in the motion passed by the house was simply London Times. However, he had only a re-echo of the speech from the throne. referred to that in passing. All must regret that a minister of the crown had so far forgotten himself as to allow his official position to be connected with an brought with the bill. They would not affair of this kind. It would be remembered that last year Hon. Col. Baker Mr. Brown contended that the attorwent on a mission to England. Before leaving he drew from the provincial round the question instead of speaking treasury \$1000 to pay his expenses. copy of the voucher was contained in the report of the public accounts committee that had just been presented to the house. The voucher states that Hon. Colonel ernment lead the members to believe Baker drew the \$1000 to go to London that the papers would be brought down and represent the province at the opening of the Colonial Institute and to transact other business for the province. He did not know whether the land scheme was included in the "other important busi-

Mr. Sword said he understood, when While in London, however, it ness." the motion was passed, that the papers | was true that Hon. Col. Baker had prowould be brought down immediately. moted his private interests. Not only that, but before leaving he fortified himwould have to specify at what time self with a report of a subordinate officer of the province. It was most un-Hon. Mr. Pooley said the leader of fortunate that a minister had used a rethe opposition considered every answer port of a subordinate officer to bolster up given by the government evasive and unhis wildcat scheme. How long would satisfactory. The papers could not be it he before the 1500 acres mentioned in the prospectus would be needed for a townsite in East Kootenay? The amount The motion was put and lost on the of land mentioned as being set aside for a townsite would take in the whole pen-Yeas-Messrs. Semlin, Milne, Beaven, insula on which Victoria is situated. Cotton. This was one of the schemes that the investors in Great Britain were asked to put their money into, on the recommendation of a minister of the crown and an Eberts, Stoddart, Booth, Adams, Turofficer of the province. The question ner, Martin, Croft, Hunter, Rogers, Anreally was: "Did a minister of the crown use his official position for private pur-Mr. Speaker gave a ruling on the poses while travelling at the expense of question by Dr. Milne on Tuesday as "Is it the intention of the govtransactions that the legislature should condemn. The legislature should pass a resolution condemning such conduct and to money loaned on mortgage on real show that they had nothing to do with it. estate?" The Speaker said: The Hon. It was a nice example for the minister minister of finance has objected to the of education to set before the rising genquestion, claiming that ministers are eration of the province, using his official not required to answer questions involcapacity in such a wey. No man with ving an explanation of their intentions any feeling of self respect would let it as to matters of taxation. Rule 29, of pass without holding up his hand against our own rules and orders, permits the it. If a man could not see anything disputting of questions to ministers of the honest in that transaction, he did not crown relating to public affairs, and of know where that man could see any disthis privilege hon. members have fre- | honesty. It was not proper for a minquently availed themselves, without reister of the crown, while travelling at the expense of the province, to attempt striction or objection. Numerous cases may be cited from the journals of this to float such a scheme as that. He was afraid that if he expressed his full scnhouse-notably those of 1889, page 13; timents he would say something that it wherein it is recorded that similar queswould be better to leave unsaid. with a great deal of regret that he had found a minister doing such a thing. He was satisfied the public, if not the legislature, would condemn such a thing. The house might whitewash Hon. Col. Baker

It was opinions upon general questions of pol- that it was all right. Hon. Mr. Davie said opponents of the the minister of finance is not a text- government publish something in their fault. The document was published in

There could be no defense of such action. The question, the mover said, been brought forward to show that some vate enterprises but did those gentlemen one to whom the circular was sent did. use their public positions to not give it to the Times, as he would have their private interests? Hon. Col. Baa perfect right to do. The idea of the ker fortified his position by using the reattorney-general talking about newspaper | port of a subordinate officer to certify to honor after what his organ did in Mr. what he said. It would no doubt be m-Klitchen's case. He would not say that the attorney-general had written the ar- whether. Col. Baker pays taxes on the tide. The point was not whether the amount at which he valued the Cran- there was going to be mud slinging, le newspaper had published a private docu- brook estate in the prospectus. It was ment, but whether the members of the the 'duty of the house to condemn any legislature would have been doing their such action on the part of a minister. duty if they had not called attention to it after seeing it published. Everybody was well aware that public men were connected with private enterprises. The like to establish. He congratulated the matter had been made public, and a great provincial secretary on the advertising many people thought Hon. Col. Baker was guilty of a breach of official etiquette. ents and opposition had levied an assess-The whitewash brush had been used pretty frequently this session, but the attorney-general was mistaken if he charge the minister with using time for thought he could paint his side white by painting the other side black. It was impossible to get away from the point. In the first place the provincial secrehis own time? tary had boomed the scheme for his own interests. It was very different when just as wrong to read a prospectus markpublic men went into companies after ed "for private circulation" as it was to having found out that they were all right. read a letter marked "private." He did In this case Col. Baker had gone to Engnot want to whitewash the member for land to guarantee the value of certain Westmänster city, but he offen wanted land, and as a guarantee that it was all right he used his official titles. If the matter was allowed to pass some men whose characters were not spotless might get into nower and use the same means to advance their private interests. A dangerous precedent would be established if this matter was allowed to pass. The attorney-general did not say that the booming of this scheme was one of the natters of public interest for which Hon. said that the colonel deserved the thanks of the province for endeavoring to inluce capitalists to come to the province. How would capitalists help the province by going into land speculation and lying back while other people developed the province? If he had offered to sell small here men were asked to go into a mere speculation. The government was unable to say that the colonel was doing anything more than trying to benefit himself. He would not say that the matter had been misrepresented, but they had the fact that the colonel went to England, the province?" . It was one of those and the only thing the government could place before the people as to what he did was that he attended the opening of the Colonial Institute. The province had a highly respected agentgeneral, who might have attended the opening of the Instithe fact that he was a minister of the crown in Brittish Columbia. The only way the attorney-general could justify the scheme was by saying that it was done privately, not publicly. He would not say that it was done privately because Col. The attorney-Baker was ashamed of it. general was unable to defend his colleague, and therefore he attempted to spatter his opponents with mud. No doubt there would be another application of the whitewash brush. To pass it over would be a dangerous precedent. Hon. Col. Baker said the independents had been educating the leader of the opposition. He was not surprised at anything the independents did but until he saw the resolution on the notice paper he thought the leader of the opposition knew what the conduct of a gentleman should be. But there was an old saying

to drub him. Mr. Booth said the provincial secretary had completely justified his case. Was it to be established that a minister of the crown should not have any private business? Mr. Cotton quite agreed with the remark that the speech of the attorneyhad been very unfortunate. He had Col. Baker had gone to England, but he lately to defend two ministers of crown, and he believed every member was of the opinion that he had failed in both cases. The provincial secretary knew that there was no foundation for what he had said about him (Mr. Cotton). He insinuated that a letter had been published in the News-Advertiser written by farms to men who would develop them he | him (Mr. Cotton) or Mr. Brown to make would have been doing some good. But political capital. That letter was written by a gentleman well known in Montreal and Victoria and who is well versed in Kootenay matters. The letter was published during his absence. When he returned to Vancouver he found a letter from Hon. Col. Baker asking for the name of the writer. He answered the letter of Col. Baker, and very courteously offered to publish the whole prospectus if he sent it. The letters were not written by himself or any one else for the purpose of making political capital. The attorney-general avoided the main tute. He founded his whole scheme on subject. There can be no doubt that the provincial secretary used his public position to advocate a private enterprise. A lively passage here took place beover figures quoted by Mr. Cotton. vendor held three cabinet positions. That was certainly the reason for giving his full title. No one had a right to use his official position for such a thing. It was the duty of the house to protest against the action of the minister. It was also wrong for him to call on a subordinaite officer to give the value of property. It would have been a serious mat ter for the subordinate to refuse to do the work for his superior. If the supporters that a silk purse could not be made out of a sow's ear. He would give a straight-forward explanation of the plot, because asked for by circular and not published Hon. Mr. Beaven-Nice gentlemanly anguage. Hon. Col. Baker-The transaction was straightforward one. Mr. Kitchen had a farm pupil who had a father in England. The son received from his father the prospectus and Mr. Kitchen seeing it marked for private circulation only, thought he had got hold of another private document and with it hied off to his master, in this sort of business, in Vancouver. At the request of Mr. Cotton, Col. Baer's words were taken down. Hon. Col. Baker-Shortly afterwards a to the province. letter appeared in the News-Advertiser bearing on the question. The letter

he attempted for political purposes to injure a member of the government and blast his future. He extended his sym. pathy to the "gallant colonel." Hon. Mr. Pooley said the resolution

could not injure the reputation that Hon. Col. Baker bore. It was not with th idea of doing the country good, but advance was through the malice that the opposition bore the government, that the tion was introduced. Hon. Col. Bake did not need to use his official titles in teresting to the finance minister to know London, as he was well known there h fore he came to British Columbia. it be from both sides. He did not propose to be dictated to by members from the other side. It might be well to see if certain members had a right to sit Mr. Hunter said if he attempted to he certain inclusions had a tight to sit in whitewash Mr. Brown there would be a he thought, would regret the position he thought, would regret the position he

had taken. Mr. Sword said he was going to suphis property had received. The independ- port the resolution. Every member view with disapprobation the use h ment to publish the document in the minister of the crown of his official Times. It was a contemptible thing to tion to advance such a scheme. He d not say that the scheme was not a which he was paid by the province for gitimate one. Every member should his own business. How did they know able to support the resolution. The word that he did not do his business during ing of the prospectus showed that Hon Col. Baker had used his official position Was he to spend 24 nours a day on public business? It was in connection with the scheme. Mr. Keith said the resolution had been

very temperately framed; it might have been made a very offensive one. could not but think as the debate ad. vanced that there was something that hurt the members of the government. Among other things the attorney-general had said that he was not honest or spotless. Perhaps he felt better after he said it, as an open confession was good for the soul. There was no attempt to injure the reputation of the provincial secretary, The resolution was introduced honestly general was no defence. That gentleman and in the interests of the province. He could not think that any member would attempt to injure the reputation of an the other. The provincial secretary mus have felt very comfortable when he heard the eulogy pronounced upon him by Mr. Hall. The house had been called upon twice this week to investigate the ac tions of a minister of the crown. Hall had referred to paid agitators, bu he did not think that Mr. Hall would ever be paid to agitate a question. Mr Kitchen had done quite right when h went over the province to refute the false statements made by the premier. Th provincial secretary must have thought "preserve me from my friends" when the premier was talking. The premier had a mania for purloined documents. He was always losing or missing a document The public must be disgusted with hearing about it.

Dr. Milne said it was well to consider whether a minister of the crown should use his name as Hon. Col. Baker had done. The charge of Mr. Hunter that the opposition had something to do with the insertion of the document in the Times was absurd. He thought that if Hon tween Mr. Cotton and Hon. Col. Baker Col. Baker had to float the scheme again he would do it differently. The subordi-Mr. Cotton said to draw on the inves- nate officer had gone beyond his duty as tors it was put in the prospectus that the a government employe in making the re port that he had. The worst feature of the whole thing was getting that officer to do as he had done. The provincial secretary could hardly be blamed for do ing a little private business when he was in England. There could be no great objection to the resolution; it was not anything to fear. Even if it was not carried, the discussion would do good, showing that the ministers of the crown should be careful how they used their official posi-

of the government were candid they tions. would vote for the resolution. Any one Mr. Croft opposed the resolution and who knew anything about financial mat- defended the action of the provincial secters knew that "for private circulation | retary. The land of the Cranbrook estate, he said, was anything but harror Mr. Grant spoke with "strict impartiuntil a certain amount had been subscribality." ed. The resolution should be looked at Hon. Mr. Beaven closed the debate entirely apart from party lines. Anyone who heard the hon. gentlemen on Mr. Kitchen denied that he had receiv the government of the house defend the ed the document through a farm pupil. provincial secretary must have come t It had been sent to him by a gentleman the conclusion that what those gentlemen who had been asked to become a direchad said would have been better left up tor. The gentleman had asked his opinsaid. No attempt was made to refute ion about it, and as he was advised that what was said in the preamble of the the property was worth nearer \$65,000 resolution. The attorney-general's arguthan £65,000, he advised the gentleman ment had simply been an attack upon to leave the scheme alone. He could not him (Mr. Beaven). No matter how but but advise the genitleman not to invest he might be it did not justify the proin the scheme when the province needs vincial secretary's action. The attorney capital. It looks very bad to see a public general had said that he (Mr. Beaven) man trying to float such a scheme. If was a party to the purloining of the docitthe hon. gentleman is using 150.000 ment. The document came under l. acres of land there should be some return notice the same as it came under the notice of hundreds of other people. The house adjourned at 6 o'clock until newspaper did a duty to the public who it published the document. It was h EVENING SESSION, no means a private document The only Mr. Kitchen conttinued the debate on effort at defense the attorney-generation the Hon. Mr. Beaven's motion. The prosmade was the reading of the names pectus was not a private document, as a number of public men, who, he said was shown by the footnote, which stated were directors of insurance companies. that copies could be obtained from a cer-This was no parallel to the action of th tain place. The attorney-general had provincial secretary. The governme spoken about opposition papers. He had not shown that Col. Baker had donshould be the last one to talk about newsany public good in London. He had a papers. If his government was above tempted to float a scheme by the aid of saspicion it would not be necessary for a report of a public servant of the pro him to get control of the newspapres in ince. There was nothing private about the province. The Colonist, which once the document. It was distributed among had a good reputation, was now descendbrokers and those who might put their ing to the same level as the Vancouver money in the scheme. The attorney World, distorting reports, etc. It would general must think that the people of the have paid Hon. Col. Baker to sell the province are a parcel of fools. No of shares of the Cranbrook estate for 25 but a pettyfogger would adopt the cours cents each. If everything had been all adopted by the attorney-general. right there would have been no need to provincial secretary need not have exhi hide facts. The report about millions ited so much warmth. It shows that i of dollars worth of gold having been touched a vital spot and that there wa taken out of a certain creek near the something at the bottom that was yet A estate was a terrible exaggeration. be disclosed. If he had to follow great deal was made out of the British course of the provincial secretary in Columbia Southern railway, a scheme matter to become a gentleman he wol that had been boomed by Hon. Col. Baknever become one. There was not er in the house. The subordinate officer slightest move on the part of anyone did not make his report without being ruin Hon. Col. Baker. If it would requested to do so. Wild-cat schemes had him to prevent the floating of such already done a great deal of injury to scheme what would have become or the province, and should not be encourmen who might have put their I aged. It was good for the reputation of in the scheme. Would they not be the province that the scheme was not sidered? The resolution conden successful. The opponents of the govminister of the crown for using his ernment were not trying to injure the provincial government personally. The house would like to know what the procial position and the position of a lic officer to float a private scheme. one had attempted to show what nincial secretary had done in England. the provincial secretary had done t Dr. Watt asked leave to withdraw his province while he was in London. mendment, which was granted. member for Cassiar said Mr. Kite Mr. Hall said the legislature had been lisgraced by the introduction of Hon. Mr. was a paid agitator for following attorney-general around the province Beaven's resolution. The look on the refuting statements inade by him. Wh face of the leader of the opposition when about the attorney-general, who he introduced his motion convinced him travelling around at the public expense that he was doing it against his wish. Mr. Kitchen, who paid his own expense

was the attorney-general. The

ments that he must have purloined

council allowing him to use the m

of the council at the public meeting

He had been in hopes that ake some defense but the ery weak and lamentap,

The motion was put and the following division: Yeas-Messrs. Semi Semlin, Sword, Kitchen, Cotton, Brown, Forster, Keith-In Nays-Messrs. Grant, 1 Punch, Watt, Baker, P Turner, Vernon, Martin, ddart, Hunter, Booth, Anderson, Adams, Fletch Hon. Col. Baker presen all appointments made une

al health act. The House adjourned a Fr the Speaker took clock. Frayers by Rev.

The following petitions The Brunette Saw Mill (ited Liability," for a priva fect the incorporation of The corporation of the tow liwhack, to validate a loa orainage of "Big Prairie" Brownlee, G. F. Cairnie Levi, for a private bill "Mount Tolmie Park and Railway Company Act, 1 E. T. & L. Co., a private their name and extend the The committe on the pedition reccommended th pher be engaged to take The report was Hon. Col. Baker present the correspondence in conn Songhees Indian reserve. Mr. Kellie introduced 'An act for the incorpor way, telephone, and telegra West Kootenay district." Mr. Sword moved that of the chair given on raling out of order the m the opinion of this house, the tax on mortgages

be not sustained. Mr. Sword said he did authorities quoted by the a to this case. The motion fect the act and he did should embarass the gov passage of the resolution I the government to the ruling of the speak he privilege of the mem Hon. Mr. Davie conte

ruling of the speaker wa precedent.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said eferred to by the speake bill varying taxation whi resolution. The resolution passed, vary the tax. The eral had said that Mr. S keeping bad company. H said that Mr. Sword had the attorney-general arou ster district. If the pr house were curtailed, one in and run the country

with the legislature. Hon. Mr. Pooley said was the same whether ferred to a bill or a t ruling was perfectly corr ber has a right to move

idence of taxation. Mr. Sword in reply said just expressed an abstract neidence of taxation. It order to the government bill to vary the incidence It might be well to amer give private members m The resolution was lo MP. Davie introduced

Mr. Keith moved for a

he names and addresses

commissioner of labour

lied for such statistics,

information thus obtained

statement of the expense

n connection with the

Bureau of Labor Statis

trial disputes conciliation

tion act, 1893. The motio

Mr. Smith moved when

te whom the commissio

'An act to further

'rofessions Act.' "

" The authority (Todd) quoted by book in this house, rule 110 of our rules organs and then comment on what is in and orders requiring that English rules the Times, an opposition paper, the last shall apply in unprovided cases. I am paper in which a member of the governof the opinion that, under rule 29 and ment would advertise. He failed to see the practice and usage of this house, the anything to condemn in the prospectus or question is admissible. the action of the provincial secretary. Hon. Mr. Turner said he would an-The transaction was eminently a fair one ewer the question later. and such transactions were of advantage Mr. Eberts introduced bills to incor to the province. They encouraged capiporate the Great Telegraph railway comtalists to invest their wealth in the prov-

pany, the Cariboo Hydraulic Mining ince. Because Hon, Mr. Baker did this Company, and the Horse Fly Hydraulic he was made a target of the opposition. The only objection urged against Hon. Col. Baker was that he used his official Mr. Hall introduced a bill to amend title in the documents. Taking that as a principle no one holding an official posi-Mr. Sword moved for a return of on could use his title in connection with all correspondence between the governenterprises. He read a number of names ment and the Dominion government re garding the motion introduced by Mr. of public men whose titles were published in connection with companies and private Punch on 20th March, 1893, and carenterprises. This was not only the case ried on the 27th March, 1893, which

n England but also in Canada. It was motion prayed him to remove the Domthe commonest thing for public men :c inion government to increase the per be connected with private enterprises and capita tax on Chinese coming into this they had to be described. 'There was country to \$100, and also to give to this one phase about the question that was province at least 75 per cent. of the dishonest and that was the appropriasaid 'tax. The motion was adopted. tion of a private document. Piracy was Mr. Keith introduced a bill to amend part of the business of a newspaper, l-ut in this case burglary seemed to have Mr. Croft introduced a bill to ameud been resorted to. A man who would keep anything lost, was simply pilfering

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved that where The leader of the opposition 17.28 as the "Victoria Daily Times" published, making use of a document that came inon Monday the 29th day of January, to the hands of a newspaper against the will of the owner. The public as a body recognize honesty and they would 1894, a prospectus relating to the "Cranbrook Estate Company, Limited," which states that the company has been formed recognize the action of men who purloined documents. It was this that for the purpose of acquiring, developing, made the public abhor the members of and selling the Cranbrook Estate, conthe opposition. A man who purloined a taining eighteen thousand acres of land, document was little better than the tifteen hundred acres of which will com-Chinaman who frequented his hen most prise the townsite of Cranbrook, in the and stole his chickens. The charitably East Kootenay Valley, in the Province disposed might excuse them as being poof British Columbia, and that the vendor litical kleptomaniacs and that they had is Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable got into the habit of doing it and could James Baker, provincial secretary, minnot help it. As a householder would exister of mines, and minister of education clude a kleptomaniae from his house so of British Columbia, who will join the would the public exclude the political board of directors after allotment of kleptomaniac from the legislature. the shares And whereas there is append-Hon. Mr. Beaven explained that he ed to the said prospectus a copy of a recame into possession of the document in port by Mr. A. P. Cummins, stipendiary the same way as hundreds of others did, nægistrate, gold commissioner, governby reading it in the papers.

ment agent, and provincial land survey-Hon. Mr. Davie-You did not notice the or, dated from the provincial govern heading: "For private circulation?"

Hon. Mr. Beaven-You are pretty well to Colonel the Hon. James Baker, Vicversed in the practice of purloining docutoria, in which Mr. Cummins, amongst He was continuing to explain ments. other things, states that he considers something that Hon. Mr. Davie had said that a fair valuation of the Cranbrook when Hon. Col. Baker jumped to his feet estate would be twelve dollars per acre and in an excited manner called him to

with regard to which he says: "I can-Mr. Speaker (to Col. Baker)-The bon. not attempt a valuation of the townsite gentleman will take his seat. I am callproperty. I may, however, mention that ing the leader of the opposition to order. lots in the mining towns of Nelson and Mr. Brown-As usual no case had been Kaslo, which have recently sprung up made by the government in their defence. n West Kootenay, have been selling at All must admit that the provincial secfrom \$500 to \$3,000 each; and whereas retary had done something for which he should be censured. The attorney-generit is further stated in the prospectus that the information contained as to the al could not be excused for the language Cranbrook estate, and as to other he had used, as he did not speak on the spur of the moment, but had read from a matter affecting its value, has been supbrief. The attorney-general's strongest plied to the directors by the vendor, and that the vendor is the provincial secreargument was his appeal to the laughter of the house. His speech was a most tirry, minister of education, and minister miserable exposure of the weakness of his case. He did not think that the ac-

it was a plot, and let the people judge etween him and the leader of the opposition and his gang.

> was a most scandalous one. That letter was written to prevent the formation of the company and injure him. If the company was not floated it would briez

ruin on him and that would satisfy the instigators of the plot. The man who wrote the letter was the worst kind of a ascal. They had the prospectus advertised in the Times at a cost of \$30 and then got the leader of the opposition to bring it up in the house, knowing that had a better reputation than they. The hon, gentleman thought they could null him down and ruin his property. No man who called himself a man would attempt to do such a thing. The leader of opposition knew that a minister going to England would draw what he did and when he had finished public business he could attend to his own private pusiness. Dr. Watt spoke in defense of Hon. That gentleman he said Col. Baker. had done nothing that deserved the censure of the house. He moved in amend-

ment to strike out all the worls after "which" in the second line and insert, "it was headed for private circulation only, be it therefore resolved that the house efuses to be a party to unprinciple 1 conduct that would make a private document a vehicle of frivolous scandal against a minister of the crown.' Mr. Forster wanted to know what good. Col. Baker could do by attending the opening of the Colonial Institute. There was very little use attempting to induce

more immigrants to come to the province. He could not find anything that Col. Baker did there and yet he charged the province \$10 a day for 67 days. He repesented a constituency of working men who could not earn \$3 a day and they would like to know what Col. Baker did for his \$10 a day. He would not care if anything was done. There was sufficient ground for the suspicion that he did not go to England to attend the open-Mr. Hall referred to Col. Baker's war ing of the Institute. It would not take record, which, he contended, was one was in a better position in that trip th 67 days to attend the opening of the Inreason why the opposition should not atstitute. It should not be passed withtack him. Hon. Col. Baker would have had with him a number of public out comment that a minister of the crown scheme.

ing. Mr. Semlin said the government did

animous report of a con ed by the house on the 1888, it was respectfully to the government to earnest consideration the issuing a crown grant of prised in premption 1,003 or take such other st proper to secure Mr. Gre land ;be it therefore re-Eberts, Fletcher, McK and the mover be appoint whether the aforesaid has been carried out, and is any, and if so what, I same should not be carr enquire generally into th power to send for perso apers and report to this Mr. Smith said his obj ducing the resolution wa old dispute if possible. Hon. Mr. Vernon said a previously been appointed the matter. The matter taken into court and Mr. feated.

Hon. Mr. Beaven said made a recital that was report referred to had imously adopted by the were majority and minor Hon. Mr. Davie said th harm in passing the res was incorrect the commit t back to the house. however, that the resol drawn until any mistake ed away. Mr. Grant considered

had claims that should no Hon. Mr. Vernon said mittee had considered th and he could not see the committee.

Mr. Smith withdrew th the present.

Dr. Milne asked the nance if it was the inten ernment to repeal so m onal property tax enact to money loaned on mo estate?

Hon. Mr. Turner ans government did not inter change this session. Mt. Sword asked the ner of lands and works had the government pai contracts for the new p ings to the opinion exp house on April 11th, 189 should be inserted in all o ed by the government fo tion of public works pro wages of all labourers

