(From Friday's Daily Edition).

Day of Routine In Legislature

Limit for Registration of Bills of Sale Prominent Feature of Discussion.

Several Government Measures Advanced--Business Before the Committee.

The absence of Messrs. D. W. Higgins and Joseph Martin—the former being still confined to his room by illness; the clearing of the long list of motions and questions on Wednesday; and the "standing over" of the Coal Mines Regulation bill, the Execution bill, and the Companies bill—together with the ruling that the Liquor Licenses Amendment bill must come before the house by message—made yesterday another light day in the legislature. A number of public bills went through committee, three or four were given second reading, and the house adjourned shortly after four to enable the government members (incidentally) to attend a caucus at which the alien exclusion law is understood to have been one of the live topics of discussion.

After the house had opened in due form with prayers by Rev. J. F. Vichert,

A PETITION.

Mr. Green presented the petition of 150 residents of Slocan City mining division, asking that there be no interference with the eight hour law as it at present appears on the statute book.

This petition, as well as another of similar import from Nelson district, was ordered to be printed.

JURORS ACT.

On the order for first reading of the bill to amend the Jurors Act being called

Hon. Mr. Henderson asked leave to withdraw the measure in question.

The order was discharged.

RETURNS OF REVENUE.

Mr. Turner's motion "That a respectful address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor, asking that the accounts of revenue and expenditure from 1st July to 31st December, 1899, be laid before the house" was at the suggestion of Hon. Mr. Cotton so amended as to call for an abstract instead of a detailed statement.

This amendment being accepted by the leader of the opposition, it was so decided.

RE-INTRODUCED BY MESSAGE.

The withdrawn bill to amend the Jurors Act was next presented by message from the Lieut.-Governor, the message and bill being ordered for consideration on Friday.

THE FIRST COMMITTEE.

The house then went into committee (Mr. Kidd in the chair) upon the government bill to amend the Evidence Act.

This measure was passed without amendment and the committee rose, reporting progress, in order that Mr. McPhillips may present for incorporation (if approved by the house), certain amendments indicated in his remarks on second reading of the bill.

COUNTY COURTS BILL.

On the consideration of this measure in committee, Mr. Clifford being chairman,

Mr. Pooley suggested that it be so amended that the vacation shall occur in August—not July.

This was agreed to, and the bill was reported complete as so amended.

TRUSTEES BILL.

Hon. Mr. Henderson in moving the second reading of this bill, explained that it was taken from the English statutes, and he thought would commend itself to the house. The entire substance of the bill was contained in the second section, which read:

"2. Chapter 187 of the Revised Statutes of British Columbia is hereby amended by adding thereto, as 77a, the following: '77a. If it appears to the court that a trustee, whether appointed under the 'Trustees and Executors Act' or not, is or may be personally liable for any breach of trust, whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the passing of this Act, but has acted honestly and reasonably, and ought fairly to be excused for the breach of trust and for omitting to obtain the directions of the court in the matter in which he committed such breach, then the court may relieve the trustee either wholly or partly from personal liability for the same."

The second reading passed—the bill to be committed at the next sitting of the house.

COMMITTEE WORK.

Consideration in committee (with Mr. Kellie as chairman) was given to the Games Act amendment bill, which was still receiving attention when the committee rose, reporting progress. The bills to amend the Municipalities Incorporation Act, the Notaries Act, and the Farmers' Institutes Act went through the committee stage without amendment.

THE CONSTABLE IS SATISFIED.

Mr. Booth asked the Premier: "Why was the police officer of South Cedar (Mr. Cassidy) discharged? What salary did he receive?"

Hon. Mr. Semlin replied: "Mr. George Cassidy, of South Cedar, or Oyster Harbor, was appointed to the position of provincial constable to be paid by fees. That position he voluntarily resigned as he wished to be paid a salary. He was subsequently appointed at a salary of $60 per month, of which he is now in receipt."

THE CASE OF MR. GALBRAITH.

Mr. Helmcken asked the Attorney-General:

"1. Is it a fact that an order in council has been passed remitting a fine, or a portion thereof, imposed upon Mr. Galbraith, of Duncan, for an infraction of the Game Act?

"2. What official position does the said Mr. Galbraith occupy?

"3. What is the date of: (a) The imposition of the fine; (b) The remission thereof?

"4. What was the amount of the fine, and what was the amount remitted?

"5. Why was the fine remitted?"

Hon. Mr. Henderson replied: "No. 1. Yes; one-half of the fine was remitted. 2. Dominion government fishery officer. 3. (a) 3rd November, 1899; (b) 2nd January, 1900. 4. $15 and $7.50.

The reason for the remission of the portion of fine will be stated to the house later on, the Attorney-General undertaking to provide an amplified reply which will obviate the necessity of printing certain voluminous correspondence.

BILLS OF SALE BILL.

The second reading of this measure having been moved by Hon. Mr. Henderson, who briefly explained the scope and purport of the legislation sought—in the direction chiefly of shortening the period allowed for registeration, which is now 21 days throughout the province—at the request of the boards of trade of this city and Vancouver.

Mr. McPhillips thought that the principle should not be admitted that 21 days is too long for the period of registration; and denied that he had seen this work any hardship in practice. As he understood it, the law provided for 21 days in England to-day——

Hon. Mr. Henderson observed that the English system was altogether different.

Mr. McPhillips had always been under the impression that the British Columbia statute was modelled upon the English act.

Hon. Mr. Semlin set matters right as to the English and British Columbia laws. The Bills of Sale Act had been originally brought in by Mr. Walkem in the first British Columbia parliament, when at his (Hon. Mr. Semlin's) suggestion, the period had been made 21 instead of 14 days in recognition of the greater difficulty of securing communication in a new country. The means of communication had, however, vastly improved since then, and he thought that perhaps 14 days would now be sufficient.

Mr. A. W. Smith pointed out that while 14 days might work satisfactorily in the cities, it was an entirely different matter in such out of the way sections as Cariboo and the Chilcotin, where the mails were only received twice a month at certain periods of the year. In such districts 14 days would be an entirely too restricted a period.

Mr. Pooley also held that 21 days for registration was not by any means too long.

The Attorney-General intimated that consideration to the point at issue might very well be given in committee.

Mr. Booth also opposed the suggested restriction of the registration period.

Mr. Ellison reminded the Attorney-General and the government that Vernon, although long promised a registry office, was as yet still waiting for a redemption of the government's promises in this regard. He pointed out that there were more registrations at the Okanagan capital than in any other place of its size in the province, and held that with the Supreme court sittings being held there, the necessity for a registry at Vernon should be paramount to everyone. He did not know that the government could do better than in considering the establishment of an office in Vernon while passing upon this bill.

Mr. Clifford directed attention to the position Cassiar would be in with the adoption of the change proposed. Fourteen days was altogether too short—even 21 days was too short for Cassiar—30 days would be infinitely better.

Mr. Wells added his word of objection. He thought the period would be much better placed at 21 days than at 14; he knew that the restricted time would in his own district work considerable loss.

Mr. Tisdall thought that as far as the cities were concerned—he spoke as a city member—21 days was entirely too long.

Mr. McBride remarked that the legislature was bound to look at the interests of the province at large, and not of the cities alone. He thought that the act might very well be left as it stood, with perhaps an enlargement (rather than a restriction of the time period) for the benefit of Cassiar only.

Mr. Turner opposed the contemplated change, and thought that 21 days applied to all the province worked fairly satisfactorily.

Mr. J. M. Martin held that if Victoria and Vancouver cities wanted the restricted period they might be allowed to have it—the other parts of the province continuing under the act as now constituted.

Mr. Eberts inquired why the time should be curtailed.

Hon. Mr. Henderson instanced examples of abuse of the present period.

Hon. Mr. Cotton elaborating the same point.

Mr. McPhillips pointed out that by a Supreme court decision such a course of procedure as related constituted a fraud and invalidated the bill of sale concerned.

With the understanding that material alterations would be proposed in committee, the bill received its second reading.

LIQUOR LICENSES BILL.

On the motion for second reading of this measure,

Mr. A. W. Smith contended that the bill was not properly before the house, inasmuch as it should have been brought down by message.

Mr. Speaker held the point to have been well taken, and the order for the second reading was discharged.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES.

The bill to amend the Department of Mines Bill (Mr. Hume) was given its second reading without opposition or debate.

VANCOUVER INCORPORATION.

The bill to amend the Vancouver Incorporation Act was introduced by Mr. Tisdall, received its first reading, and went next to the private bills committee.

THE VICTORIAN.

She Proves Her Seaworthiness in a Heavy Storm in the Straits.

In reference to the sea-going qualities of the Victorian, the following taken from a Tacoma paper will interest the travelling public: "Some days ago the people of Victoria entered sundry complaints regarding the service and seaworthiness of the steamer Victorian, operating between Tacoma and Victoria. Messrs. Dodwell and Maxwell, of the firm owning the steamer, went to Victoria, met the members of the board of trade, and refuted the charges as to service, these being shown to be trivial and likely to happen with any steamer line. Now, as to the Victorian being a safe, substantial, commodious sea boat. On Monday night a heavy gale swept the Sound. The Victorian left her dock at Tacoma at 8:30 p. m., according to schedule, and in time to catch the full force of the storm. She had a heavy freight and passenger list. Breasting out into the Straits of Fuca, the steamer rode the heavy seas in handsome shape, made the outer dock at Victoria on time, and safely landed both passengers and freight."

Not So Heavy.—The lost by the fire on Chatham street on Thursday evening was not as heavy as stated yesterday, in fact it is now estimated at very little over $2,000. The mill building and all its contents was valued at $450; R. Baker & Sons, barn hay and potatoes, $1,050, on which there was $450 insurance; and J. E. Painter's coal, $100. Mr. Painter sent Chief Deasy a cheque for $10 for the firemen's fund.

THE ILLS OF WOMEN

Are usually the result of an exhausted nervous system which can be fully restored by the use of Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food. Women made nervous and irritable by the wasting diseases which drain their system find new life, new vigor, new energy in Dr. A. W. Chase's Nerve Food, the world's greatest blood and nerve builder.

Slocan Miners Heard From

A Unique Petition Against Any Revision of the Eight Hour Law.

Also Declaring That Mining Inspector Has Lost Petitioners' Confidence.

The miners of Kootenay have not delayed answering the petition of the mine owners as regards the eight-hour law. The latter, of course, desire to see the obnoxious clause wiped out of the statutes, while the men who sign the contra petitions are just as anxious for it to remain and to be strictly enforced. For picturesqueness in resolution-writing the miners are a long way ahead of their employers. Three thousand miners belong to District Union No. 6, Western Federation of Miners, and they have made, from their own point of view, a forcible request to the provincial government asking it to maintain the law in its entirety. First of all they get on the right side of the government by protesting against any political trickery tending to disrupt the present administration. They declare that the prosperity of the mining community depends upon the maintenance of the law.

"A miner is not some kind of animal that lives on black bread and hog fat," they say. "He is a human being, a modern man of modern ideas, and eight hours is enough for him to daily engage in an unhealthy and dangerous calling."

The miners advance figures seeking to show that the present Kootenay wage is below the standard of other localities. They have a dig at speculators who get wealthy on deals and go in for champagne suppers. Then they pass on to the belief that the evidence taken before Commissioner Clute showed, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that good men will do as much underground work in eight hours as in ten. They insist, therefore, on the maintenance of the law, and hint that if it is tampered with it will result in a struggle that will last until every dollar of the Western Federation is gone. The miners look upon the presence of several "political buccaneers" at Victoria intimidating the government as a menace to the will of the masses, and they "look with suspicion upon all political freebooters who are ever ready to array themselves with the opposition." The organization declares its irrevocable opposition to party politics. Appended is their resolution in its entirety as it has been received by the members of the local house for presentation:

Whereas unsettled conditions exist between labor and capital in the metalliferous mining districts in the province of British Columbia, arising from many causes, chief among which is the eight-hour law; the mine owners' association and their several organs have advocated their cause persistently before the public and their emissaries have written and stated through the public press that the miners did not want the eight-hour law. Being fully conscious of how disastrous to the people of the Kootenays any mistep or wrong move by either parties would be at this moment, we deem it our duty to state our position to the citizens of British Columbia and their representatives, who hold and guide the destinies of this province. Much depends on the foresight and wisdom of these men guiding the ship of state, as we hope they will continue to do, to a safe port.

Whereas we, the members of District Union No. 6, Western Federation of Miners, comprising eleven unions, with a membership of three thousand miners, do hereby protest against any political trickery that would tend to disrupt the present government, and we appeal to all organized labor to remember that the prosperity of our people depends on the maintaining of the Metalliferous Mines Act as amended at the last sitting of the legislature. If miners are to be considered in the same category as so much machinery or some kind of animal that lives on black bread and hog fat, needs no books, can live in a rude hut, or sleep in a mining company bunk house all his life without being dissatisfied, then there is no cause for concern over how many hours he shall or shall not work. Conceding him to be a human being, a modern man able to read, think and appreciate the good things of life as others do, then we contend eight hours are sufficient for miners to work underground. The dangerous and unhealthy nature of our calling are good and sufficient reasons for shorter hours than other branches of labor, skilled or unskilled. Oft times, by a slight mishap or the ignorance of an employee, the individual who makes such mistakes is not only killed, but causes the deaths of his comrades who may be near him. Working in artificial air, breathing poisonous gasses every moment while underground, men often lose their lives before they can retrace their steps to a place of security. We are tempted in this resolution to question the competency of the mine inspector for the Kootenays, and wonder why a goverment should retain a man in their employ who has lost the respect ad confidence of the men of whose lives he is the guardian. The wage question, on which is based the present trouble between the miners and mine owners in the Slocan district is not above the standard paid first-class miners in other places, such as Cripple Creek, Colo., where miners have been working eight hours since 1894. It would be superfluous to add that in all the British colonies and Great Britain miners work but eight hours. There is no place outside the Kootenays in this Western mining country, with the exception of Alaska, where more of the necessaries of life cannot be purchased with a dollar than in the mining districts of British Columbia. In the state of Montana, where wages will average from 75 cents to $1 per day per man higher than in portions of British Columbia, clothing, food and in fact everything that would satisfy one's desires can be obtained at least 25 per cent. cheaper than any portion of the Kootenays. Therefore we contend wages are not high, but, on an average, are below the standard paid in other localities. People in British Columbia are not able to maintain their physical strength, not to speak of their mental or moral requirements, on the same wages paid for labor in Europe or the Eastern provinces. Labor should not suffer for the mistakes of men who have more money than judgment. Unscrupulous speculators plan and scheme in every way imaginable to float mining properties for millions when they are not worth so many thousands. The speculators get wealthy on one or two such deals, and everything is charged up to the cost of mining, even champagne suppers. The next move is to reduce wages. We further believe the testimony given before the government commissioner, Mr. R. C. Clute, has proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that miners will perform as much work under the eight-hour day as was previously accomplished undre the ten-hour system.

Therefore be it resolved that we, the miners comprising District No. 6, Western Federation of Miners, believing in the justice of our cause, do hereby protest against any revision of the eight-hour law and insist on the maintenance of the same, even if every metalliferous mine in British Columbia should close down. Any tampering with the eight-hour law at this late day will result in a struggle which will last until every dollar the Western Federation of Miners has is expended. It is only by such laws that we will attain the higher and nobler walks of life.

At present several political buccaneers are at the seat of government within the sacred chambers of our legislative halls. Their very presence is a menace to our representatives. Their objects are to hamper and intimidate the government in expressing the will of the masses of this province.

Be it further resolved that we will look with suspicion on all political freebooters who are ever ready to array themselves with the opposition—a party, which, during their reign as a government, has never placed one single act on the statutes that would better the condition of the masses of British Columbia. As an organization we are irrevocably opposed to party politics. When party lines are drawn unscrupulous individuals entrench themselves behind the bulwarks of party politics and prejudice man against his fellow man. Parties have done more in the past to destroy the spirit of human progress than all the other evils reformers and reform organizations have had to combat against.

ALFRED PARR, Secretary. A. J. HUGHES, President.
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MR CLUTE'S REPORT.

Dominion Commissioner Brought to Slocan by an Imaginary Grievance.

Ottawa, Jan. 18.—Mr. R. C. Clute, Q.C., of Toronto, the commissioner appointed by the government to enquire into the workings of the British Columbia eight-hour law, had an interview with the first minister today, during which he gave an informal account of the result of his investigations, which later will be embodied in an official report which Mr. Clute will submit to the administration. It is understood that the commissioner parties would be at this moment, we deem it our duty to state our position to the citizens of British Columbia and their representatives, who hold and guide the destinies of this province. Much depends on the foresight and wisdom of these men guiding the ship of state, as we hope they will continue to do, to a safe port.

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NOTES OF THE GALLERY.

Vancouver City Charter to Be Consolidated—Work of the Committees.

From a Vancouver point of view the most important proceeding at the meeting of the legislature yesterday was the introduction by Mr. Tisdall of a bill amending the Vancouver Incorporation Act. The measure is designed to revise and consolidate the old acts relating to the city, the original act of 1886 having been so often amended that it is now in a shape which to the lay reader is bewildering. It is therefore proposed to consolidate the original and the amending acts, and also to ask for further powers. These additional powers desired include the objects following: To abolish the ward system; to provide under certain conditions for the government of the city by commissioners; to assess street railways for a portion of the cost of watering streets; to regulate the placing of telephone and other poles; to charge property owners with the cost of sewers running past, or adjoining their premises, by way of rental; to limit and define localities in which wash-houses and other trades or business may be carried on; to prohibit the opening of barber shops and the carrying on of any trades or business on Sundays; to provide for the fixing of the union label on city supplies; to impose a tax on bicycles; to prohibit peddlers, hawkers, transient traders and petty chapmen; to erect public wharves and impose and collect tolls for the use thereof; to purchase, construct and operate telephone and district messenger systems; to regulate the subdivision of city lots; to confirm the present survey of 264a; to administer oaths to and examine witnesses under oath in civic enquiries; to enter into contracts extending over a period of years; to borrow money for specific purposes, giving as security the undertaking and guarantee by the city; to repeal section 16 of the Vancouver Incorporation Act Amendment Act, 1895; to provide for the replacing of all telephone, electric and other wires underground; to provide a fund for the insurance of civic buildings and property; to license clubs; to prohibit the continuance of and remove slaughter houses which may be in the opinion of the council a nuisance; to provide that no by-law defeated by the voters qualified to vote thereon shall be again introduced until a period of three months from the date of such defeat shall have elapsed; to regulate and prohibit the erection, removal and repairing of buildings, authorizing the pulling down or removal of buildings erected, removed or repaired in contravention of any by-law, and for such other amendments, powers and authorities as may be necessary or expedient for the government of the city. It may be mentioned that this is the largest bill already introduced, and is likely to be the longest bill of the session. It will go to the private bills committee seven or eight days to go through it, that committee commencing its interesting if exhaustive job next Wednesday. There are 134 pages in the bill, 239 clauses and a score of schedules.

* * *

The private bills committee meets at 10 o'clock this morning to consider the petitions for the establishment of the diocese of Kootenay, and for and against the Lake Bennett railway; also for the incorporation of the Imperial Pacific Railway Co. and the Western Telephone & Telegraph Co. At another meeting of this committee on Tuesday, private bills will be considered as hereunder: To incorporate the Kitimaat-Caledonia Company, Limited; to incorporate the Crow's Nest Pass Electric Light & Power Company, Limited; to incorporate the East Kootenay Telephone Company, Limited; to incorporate the North Kootenay Water, Power & Light Company, Limited; to incorporate the Rock Bay & Salmon River Railway Company; to amend the Vancouver & Lulu Island Railway Act (1891) Amendment Act, 1897; to incorporate the Vancouver & Westminster Railway Company; and to incorporate the Chemainus & Northwestern Railway Company.

* * *

The members of the printing committee of the house held their first meeting yesterday morning, agreeing upon Mr. Kidd as chairman and Mr. Deane as secretary. The committee will order the printing of the correspondence in connection with the disallowance of certain provincial statutes by the federal authorities, and also the report of Mr. Justice Irving upon the settlement of the disputes in reference to mining titles in the Atlin country.

* * *

A preliminary meeting of the special committee named to arrange a settlement of the grievances of settlers residing in the E. & N. railway belt was held yesterday morning, when Mr. Ralph Smith was appointed chairman and Mr. Helmcken secretary. The report of Mr. Rothwell to the Dominion government as a result of his inquiry into the grievances in question was read as the basis of the present commission, together with the report in the Hoggan case. Both these reports will be printed forthwith, and the committee will then meet again to attack their work in earnest.

* * *

A special meeting of the railway committee is convened for 10 o'clock this morning, to give consideration to the bills for the incorporation of the Chilcat Pass Railway & Navigation Co., and the Taku-Atlin Railway & Navigation Co.

* * *

According to the present understanding among the supporters of the government, the estimates will be laid before parliament on Tuesday or Wednesday next; and Hon. Mr. Cotton deliver his budget speech the following Monday.

Yorkshiremen At Dinner

Devotees of the Roast Beef of Old England Hold a Banquet.

Splendid Success of First Annual Festival of B. C. Yorkshire Society.

"Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this Sun of York"

The first annual dinner of the newly formed Yorkshire Society of British Columbia, held at the Driard hotel, was an affair which reflects the highest credit upon all concerned—the society, the committee who arranged the dinner, and the hostess, Mrs. White. There were about fifty representatives of the famous county of Yorkshire present; the speeches were good and the dinner excellent. A full list of those present is as follows:

Hon. E. G. Prior, M.P., R. Wolfenden, F. M. Rattenbury, W. Clegg, Rev. Canon Beanlands, John Piercy, R. S. Oddy, H. Moxon, John T. Walbran, Jas. Peirson, James L. Brown, Ralph Grassham, J. Y. Elliott, H. J. Martin, H. S. Ives, Thos. C. Sorby, H. H. Naylor, Samuel Rounding, Fred. Turpin, R. W. Holmes, John Pape, Thomas Whitwell, Joseph Wrigtesworth, Thomas Wilson, H. Garside, Walter Morris, W. Wallace Grime, Arthur Longfield, Walter Calvert, Jesse A. L. Longfield, H. S. Henderson, Geo. T. Fox, R. W. Shaw, Wm. R. Atkins, Wm. Holmes, W. Hawksby, S. Sherburn, John Sherburn, W. G. Kinsby, F. Malony, Percy Richardson, W. H. Price, C. A. Gregg, H. Firth, E. Godson, W. F. Fullerton, Herbert Cuthbert, James Martin.

A general meeting of the society was held in the hotel rooms at 8 o'clock, previous to the banquet, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Hon. E. G. M. P.; first vice-president, Canon Beanlands; second vice-president, Lieut. Wolfenden; secretary, James Martin; treasurer, Herbert Cuthbert.

The business portion of the programme being disposed of, an adjournment was made to the banquetting hall, where Hostess Mrs. White had everything in readiness for the sturdy sons of Yorkshire, as the following menu will indicate:

MENU.

Oysters.

Ox tail soup.

Cod's Head with oyster sauce.

Rabbit pie.
Friesseed Chicken.

Baron of beef with Yorkshire pudding.
Saddle of mutton with red currant jelly.
Mashed and baked potatoes.
Cauliflower.
Brussell's Sprouts.

Apple pie with cup custard.
Plum pudding with brandy sauce.

Maraschino jelly.

Cheese and celery.

Dessert.

Coffee.

The president, Col. Prior, occupied the chair, and before proceeding to do justice to the dinner called the attention of those present to the gift of a splendid basket of flowers which had just been received from Mr. John Piercy.

Letters of regret at not being able to be present were received from William Beaumont, Maple Bay, and P. Wollaston.

Taking up the toast list, that of "The Queen" was proposed by the President and drunk with honors, the national anthem being sung with great enthusiasm at the conclusion.

The alarm of fire attracted many to the street, among those who left being Mr. Thomas Sorby, who was to have proposed the next toast on the list, "The Navy, Army and Reserve Forces."

Mr. Joseph Peirson assumed the duty and in doing so said he did so with a peculiar interest, as certain members of his family were now fighting for Queen and country in South Africa. (Applause.) He had personal knowledge of the valor and bravery of the forces in South Africa—notably the Natal Carbineers—and felt confident that now, supported by the united strength of the whole Empire, they would continue to reflect credit upon the crown. He sincerely hoped that Her Majesty's forces would be given health, strength and victory. (Cheers, and singing of "The Red, White and Blue.")

Col. Prior, who responded, thought that there were present others who were better capable of responding to the toast than he. ("No.") He referred to Col. Wolfenden, who had served in three branches of the forces—the army, volunteers and militia. He felt sure they were all proud to see the Colonel present on that occasion. (Applause.) It is different now from what it was in the olden time, when the soldier could hardly show his face among civilians. Kipling has well expressed the situation now: "It's a special band for Atkins when the band begins to play." (Applause.) They talk about effete civilization. Why, there never was a time in the history of the Empire when braver deeds were done. The soldiers to-day are just as brave, just as plucky as the heroes who in times past have made Britain's enemies tremble. (Applause.) Col Prior said he had been reminded that it was most fitting that the first annual banquet of the society should be held on the 25th day of January, as that day was the anniversary of the conversion of St. Paul; and though Paul Kruger (laughter) had not been converted yet, Great Britain was slowly but surely performing the task, and he had no doubt but that eventually Oom Paul would become a good British citizen. (Applause.) He hoped to hear from Col. Wolfenden and also Capt. Walbran, who was present as a representative of the "Canadian Navy."

Capt. Walbran on rising was greeted with cheers. He did not expect to be called upon, but could not refrain from saying a few words in praise of the "handy man" who was doing such good work in South Africa. The Captain recited several reminiscences of engagement in the olden days, when the handy man had made himself very handy—when Nelson at the battle of the Nile in a few hours totally dismasted four Frenchmen and won a great victory; at the battle of Copenhagen, when the handy man again came to the front, and the Danes had to give in; similar heroic deeds were repeated at the battle of Trafalgar. (Applause.) The Captain closed with a reference to the fisheries service of Canada, in which branch he was employed, and hoped that it would be put upon a footing as the needs of the country demanded.

Col. Wolfenden, amid cheers, expressed regret at not being able to do justice to the subject in hand. It was quite as his friend Col. Prior had said, had never existed, and the military and the volunteers. He well remembered in 1855 when he joined the service seeing the troops marching off for foreign service amid similar scenes as were repeated to-day when the sweethearts and wives bade the men a tearful good-bye. He saw the same poor fellows come back—many of them—wounded by the enemy's bullets, and welcomed by the Queen in person at Chatham barracks, Her Majesty asking them how they came by their wounds, presenting them with medals. It was gratifying to him to look back and see the same heroic spirit displayed to-day as spurred the men on in the olden days. And not only was the Empire stirred to its depths, but all the colonies. (Cheers.) If he was a young man himself he would be amongst them in the thick of the fray. They had heard good news to-day; and he took a special interest in events as happening in South Africa to-day as he had had the honor of knowing General Warren personally, having taught him his first lessons in musketry drill when he (Warren) was but 15 years of age. (Cheers.)

Col Wolfenden closed a very neat speech by expressing the hope that those present who had sons would have them join the volunteers and be instructed in the art of defending their country.

Bombardier Taylor also responded briefly. He was a late arrival and with his comrades was agreeably surprised to find such sociable people in Victoria. Neither did he expect to find so many "Tommies." As for him and his comrades, they would all go to the front to-morrow most willingly if they got the chance. (Applause.)

Mr. Henry Moxon then sang the "Red, White and Blue," in excellent voice, and amid great enthusiasm, three cheers and a tiger being given at the conclusion.

Rev. Canon Beanlands was greeted with hearty cheers on rising to propose the next toast "Our Native County." He esteemed it a great honor to be privileged to do so, though he thought the honor an undeserved one, as Yorkshire was not his native county, having been born in the county of Durham. But he felt he was a Yorkshireman nevertheless, as had his parents not left the country two years previous to his birth he would surely have been born there. (Laughter.) And that reminded him of a story. His little nephew and sister had an interesting argument the other day. The boy asserted that he had visited the Cheshire golf links two years before she (the sister) was born. The little girl replied that that was impossible as she was two years older than he. "Oh, that makes no difference," was the boy's answer. "Doesn't the good book say we came from the dust?" "Yes." "Well, I was dust on the Cheshire golf links two years before you were born." (Prolonged laughter.) "And I am sure," continued Canon Beanlands, "that I was of the dust of Yorkshire for years." (Applause.)

The conclusion of the Canon's speech was the signal for the song "For they are jolly good fellows."

Mr. John Piercy, responding, expressed the pleasure he felt at being present and seeing so representative a gathering—a meeting worthy of Yorkshire and Yorkshiremen. He had been twice around the world and never before had met so many Yorkshiremen gathered together before. He told of how when travelling miles inland in a little-settled district of Australia he had come across a Yorkshireman and how glad they were to meet each other. He referred to Lord Charles Beresford and Capt. Cook, the illustrious navigator, as fair samples of the stuff of which Yorkshiremen are made, and concluded by hoping that the British Columbia society would long flourish.

W. F. Pierson and Joseph Fullerton also replied, recalling many reminiscences of olden days, after which H. Firth sang "Powder Monkey Jim," all present joining in the chorus.

Mr. H. Cuthbert in an excellent speech then proposed "Our Adopted Country." After the society had been formed he had been asked "what had Yorkshiremen to brag about?" He thought they had much to boast of and detailed instances of Yorkshire enterprise, making a splendid speech, frequently interrupted by applause.

"The Maple Leaf Forever" was then sung.

In the absence of Finance Minister Cotton, who was down for the toast, the chairman called upon F. M. Rattenbury to reply, who did so in a neat and pleasing speech.

"The Yorkshire Society of British Columbia," proposed by W. F. Winsby and responded to by the president, Col. Prior, followed, evoking much enthusiasm.

Concluding toasts were "The Press," "The Ladies" and "The Hostess."

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(From Saturday's Daily Editio

Insane Asylum Needs Atten

Mr. Higgins Moves In Legis for Special Commissio of Inquiry.

Mr. Prentice on His Pos Progress With Min Business.

The parliamentary week has with another light day, only routi being disposed of, and the Coa Regulation bill—the most importa ernment measure now on the pa ing "stood over" indefinitely to p the report of the Provincial Coa Commission being received. M gins, although looking very ill an was able to take his seat in th for half an hour yesterday, and forward the list of motions an tions that have been standing name, the majority of which were to without debate. During the tw sitting, Mr. J. M. Martin prese petition from "98 accountants of t chants of Rossland; 40 hotelkeep ing all in the city; and many miners, artizans and protessional asking for the continuance of th hour law intact as in the nature complishing the greatest good greatest number.

PETITIONS.

Prayers being read by Rev. Vichert, petitions were presented lows:

By Mr. J. M. Martin, from me miners, professional and working Rossland, to the following effect:

"The petition of the undersign fessional and business men sheweth: 1. That the prosperity has hitherto attended all busine professional men in the Kootenay has been due to the cordial r which have heretofore existed, and are at the present time, existing b labor and capital; 2. That man dreds of thousands of dollars hav invested in real estate and build this district for the suitable protec trade and business; 3. That sin adoption of the eight-hour law th lation of the mining communiti greatly increased and is directly tra to the adoption of such law, an great good has been the direct re such increase to your petitioners; 4 the future destiny and prosperity country depends on the permane cordial relations between labor an tal; 5. That we believe a great de tion in the value of property and ness interests will follow any re the eight-hour law and that there son to believe the peace of the co ity and all commercial and prope terests and credits will follow a 6. That the greatest good to the g number will result from a continua the eight-hour law. Your peti therefore pray that no change be m the present law which might opera repeal of the same. And pour pe ers will ever pray, etc."

By Mr. Clifford, from M. Kit from the Imperial Pacific railway pany, each seeking bills of incorpo

PRIVATE BILLS REPORT

Mr. Green presented to the hou fourth report of the private bill mittee, recommending that the pet M. King, for leave to introduce tion re the Lake Bennett railway, lowed. The committee also sta preambles proved and rules met with in the bills of the Synod o Westminster, and the Imperial Railway Company.

The report was adopted.

MATTERS OF PRIVILEG

Speaking to a question of privil Mr. Green complained of an i tionally incorrect report