...amers ... Run North

...gotiating for Two ...ssels for Pass... ...er Service.

...Arrives Early Yes... ...Morning From ...ntal Ports.

...facilities between Vic... ...ern ports will be just ...ring the coming season ...ch a wealthy syndicate ...e completed. This syn... ...the members of which ...the company which re... ...three river steamers ...to run on the Yukon ...minus of the White Pass ...wson, are negotiating for ...two passenger steamers ...not less than eighteen ...e plans of the company ...enough advanced to go ...it can be said that ne... ...the steamers have about ...that if everything goes ...sent they will be here to ...of the spring travel. With ...the Coast, the railway ...d White Horse and good ...er, travelling to Dawson ...ome by the river route ...companied by many diffi... ...ing certain there will be ...steamers on the Coast as ...getting their vessels in ...e.

...TAL LINER IN.

...aru Brings a Large Num... ...teerage Passengers.

...Maru, of the Great North... ...ed at the outer wharf at ...night. She arrived at the ...tion at 4:15 a. m. yester... ...her passengers were dis... ...e vessel thoroughly fumi... ...allowed to proceed. She ...rgo, 60 tons of which was ...and carried 325 steerage ...1 Japanese debarking at ...ong the passengers were ...the crew of the American ...aul, one of whom died at ...fternoon of the 29th and ...sea at 3:30 p. m. on the ...hompson, of Seattle, presi... ...Centennial Mill Company, ...first-class passenger. He ...he Orient on business for ...he represents, and states ...ary inspectors of Kobe are ...their power to stamp out ...plague, which has infested ...some time.

...RINE NOTES.

...na of Liverpool which has ...ing freight at the outer ...e past two weeks, goes ...uimalt to-day with supplies

...er Sadie Turpel which ...entering Ahousett harbor a ..., according to a despatch ... received injuries which ...er being brought here for ...ug will accordingly be sent ...hooner to this port. ...n despatch dated the 11th ...the C.P.R. steamship Em... ...n arrived here from Van... ...horning at 9 o'clock. ...Skookum has been purchased ...D. Waldo and W. C. Cobb, ...thoroughly overhauled and ...the spring for the Lowe ...cargo in tow of a new tug ...ring completion at Moran's ...attle. ...h ship Erroll, 38 days from ...as lying at the quarantine ...ay yesterday undergoing the ...process which all vessels ...infected with the bubonic ...equired to undergo. She was ...the American tug Bowden ...d at Hastings mills.

...OVE ALL ...THERS.

...Celery Compound

...e World's Greatest ...edicine To-day.

Best People Say It Is a ...ellous Heal h giving Prescription.

...EPS PEOPLE STRONG WELL IN WINTER TIME.

Celery Compound is truly ...remedy: it cures when all ...dicines fail. Celery Compound is prescribed ...by our ablest Canadian physi...

...t druggists recommend Paine's ...mpound to their patrons with... ...ightest hesitation; they know ...ses life-saving virtues; they ...ed remarkable cures from its ...its immense sales prove its ...

...n clergymen of all denomina... ...k of Paine's Celery Com... ...th enthusiasm and gladness, ...mend it to their parishioners. Celery Compound purifies and ...the blood, regulates the nervous ...promotes perfect digestion, gives ...d refreshing sleep, healthy ap... ...d that regular life which guar... ...ontentment and happiness ...e of one bottle of Paine's Cel... ...pound will convince any sufferer ...a banisher of disease that has

(From Wednesday's Daily Edition.)

Ministers Make No Defence

Would Carry the Address Not by Reason But by an Automatic Vote.

Members of Opposition Make Several Points in Continuing the Debate.

There can be no doubting the fact that the intelligent men and women who filled the galleries at the legislative hall yesterday were very much disappointed. They had favored the parliamentarians with their presence in the hope and expectation of hearing the questions of the day intelligently debated—and were disappointed. The members of the opposition were ready, and four forceful speeches were given in arraignment of the so-called policy of the gentlemen opposite, but these gentlemen sat silent. Instead of giving answers to the facts and arguments adduced by their political opponents, they evidenced a desire to press through the reply to the speech by the force of their insignificant majority. Not even Hon. Mr. Cotton, whose associates had asserted that he would be found ready and capable to refute all the statements and conclusions of the opposition, manifested the slightest intention of rising on any of the three occasions when the "question" was offered to the house, and had it not been for the efforts of the opposition to continue the debate in the hope that some explanations might be secured from the government that would be calculated to satisfy the house and the country, the consideration of His Honor's address must have closed with none of the points raised by the gentlemen on Mr. Speaker's left answered or refuted. As it was the house and visitors—an unusually miscellaneous gathering, inasmuch as the Victoria public was for the occasion largely reinforced by just-returned Klondikers and members of the Frederick Warde company—listened to four excellent and practical addresses from Mr. McPhillips (Victoria City), who had adjourned the debate on Monday evening; Mr. A. W. Smith (West Lillooet); Mr. C. F. Booth (North Victoria); and Mr. R. McBride (Dewdney), the latter gentleman having the floor at 6 o'clock and moving the adjournment.

* * *

PETITION.

On the opening of the house at 2:15, prayers again being dispensed with, a petition was presented by Mr. Ralph Smith from residents of Nanaimo district, praying for the settlement of certain grievances relative to minerals within the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway belt. This question, it was explained, had for years been in the hands of the Dominion government. They, however, sent out a commissioner in 1897, and such officer reported and forwarded the above report to the provincial authorities, with the opinion that it was a grievance that must be settled by the provincial government. Mr. Smith therefore pressed this matter upon the provincial government, with the intention of having this question settled once for all.

THE DEBATE CONTINUED.

MR. McPHILLIPS, continuing the debate upon the speech from the throne, regretted that any member should have given the advice to the house that the legislation which had been disallowed by the federal authorities should be immediately re-enacted. Such a policy, if acted upon persistently, would precipitate revolution, and he regretted that the junior member for Vancouver—

Hon. Mr. Cotton here rose to a point of order. He had noticed that frequent reference had been made to the junior member for Vancouver, Mr. Martin being meant, during the course of the present debate. Since the three bye-elections in Vancouver, he understood Mr. Macpherson to be senior, himself second, Mr. Martin third, and Mr. Tisdall fourth member. He did not wish to interrupt the member for Victoria City in his interesting remarks, but thought that no confusion should be created by unintended reference to members.

Mr. McPhillips held that it might perhaps be well for Mr. Speaker to define the matter of precedence among the Vancouver members. As it was, one scarcely knew how to term Mr. Joseph Martin when referring to him in debate.

Col. Baker, with reference to the poetical contribution to the debate of the President of the Council on Monday, suggested that the member referred to might possibly be styled "the fallen angel." (Laughter).

Continuing, Mr. McPhillips held that the acts of the legislature which had been disallowed by the federal authorities had properly been disallowed on the ground of unconstitutionality.

This Mr. Martin rose to deny. The Alien Labor Act had been disallowed at the special request of the Imperial authorities, and without reference to, or challenge of, its constitutionality.

Mr. McPhillips could not accept this as a true statement of the facts, and held that the report of the Minister of Justice supported his contention that that learned gentleman shared his opinion that the legislation in question was ultra vires, although the question of Imperial policy had also played a conspicuous part in the disallowance. He maintained with emphasis that it would have been both unwise and wrong in principle to re-enact laws that had been passed upon by the higher authorities; and that instead the province should endeavor to devise some line of action in harmony with (not antagonizing) Federal and Imperial purpose and policy, to bring about the desired result. A conference should be arranged with the Dominion authorities, and the legislation might very well be re-enacted when the province was permitted so to do, this being the proper, constitutional and only course open to legislators appreciating their responsibilities, which included the firm maintenance of and respect for the law.

With reference to the railway law, he objected strongly to that portion withholding provincial aid from any railway devised to open up and benefit the province which might subsequently secure Dominion incorporation and apply for Dominion financial aid; and he condemned as absurd and suicidal the present policy of the government, the sole effect of which was to place obstacles in the way of provincial development. It was a policy by which British Columbia, while the residents of the province were continually referring to the small return received from the Dominion for the collections made in the province to the federal treasury, British Columbia was absolutely deprived by the act of its own legislature from receiving its share of assistance from the Dominion of Canada.

Reverting to the Pacific cable offer, of which considerable had been said by various speakers, he noted by the newspapers that Hon. Mr. Cotton had interjected on Monday afternoon that he (Mr. McPhillips) was wrong in his conclusions. He would ask the Minister of Finance to say now if it was not true that he had (or the government had) offered to contribute a million dollars toward the cost of securing the proposed Pacific cable?

Hon. Mr. Cotton held that it would not be proper for him to interrupt so eloquent an address.

In the absence of the desired reply, Mr. McPhillips maintained that as reasonable men the members of the house must assume that the offer had been made as stated; and this being the case, he asked the honorable members whether they could approve of such an offer.

He next touched upon the bad legislation of last session—more especially the Alien Exclusion act, by which it was impossible for foreign companies, even companies organized in England or Eastern Canada, to invest their capital in the placer mines of this province, thousands upon thousands of dollars being thereby lost to the country. He held that the legislation of the present government had been so detrimental to the interests of the country as to account for the present difficulties of the ministry, and place the administration in such extremities that they were afraid to name one of their following for a cabinet position, feeling that no one going to the people in their name could hope to receive an expression of public confidence. He instanced the cancellation of Victoria's voters' list as an evidence of government antagonism to the Capital City, and held that the policy of the government had been such that the people could no longer give the ministry their confidence—that it had been a policy to retard rather than promote the upbuilding of British Columbia and stimulate its prosperity. The member for Victoria City closed with an eloquent tribute to the clean political career and personal worth of Hon. Mr. Semlin.

MR. A. W. SMITH (West Lillooet) followed the junior member for Victoria in criticism of the government policy. He congratulated the mover and seconder of the address upon the success of their efforts, and held that they were fortunate in having come from very prosperous towns of the Mainland, through which fact they were enabled—without touching upon anything contained in the speech itself—to fill in the deficiencies of the document with flattering figures testifying to the general prosperity of the cities for which they spoke more particularly.

While he had not the good fortune of coming from Vancouver or Rossland, while Lillooet was as yet not in a position to rival either of those towns in population or importance, he had the honor of addressing the house as the representative of a district that he hoped he would be able to show was as rich in natural resources, as full of great potentialities, as any in British Columbia; and he could only hope would the very near future be able to show a development and a prosperity equal to that of any part of the province. (Hear, hear).

He joined heartily in the expressions of loyalty and devotion to the flag that had been made from both sides of the house in relation to the war now in progress, and held that it was one thing to the credit of the government that they had taken the right stand in seizing the first opportunity to place British Columbia's loyalty on record in a most significant way. (Applause).

So much had been said on the subject of the war, and it was a topic upon which British Columbians of both parties, and, indeed, of all shades of politics, were so thoroughly agreed that it was unnecessary for him to pursue the matter further than to say that he was one with everything that had been said for the cause of Britain and British unity, or for the improvement of the position of those heroic fellows who had gone forth to fight the battles of the Empire on the battlefields of South Africa. (Applause).

To take up the speech itself—it certainly was remarkable for its meagreness; the subjects of public import that had not been dealt with far outnumbered those to which he noted reference had been made. And concerning one of the latter, which certainly would be of very special interest to all parts or sections of the country, namely the stated decrease or remissions of taxation—he regretted that he was not in a position to agree with the announcement of the government. It certainly appeared to him that there had been an increase of taxation rather than a decrease. (Hear, hear).

The only remission of taxation that could be rightly referred to as such was that resultant from the cancellation of the law requiring working miners to possess free miners' certificates.

On the other hand, the liquor license fees had been doubled, and in many cases the amount for the whole year had been collected and credited during the first six months, thereby giving the revenue appearing in the public accounts for the half-year an altogether fictitious inflation. These license moneys were in reality not due, and in the ordinary course of business would have been collected during the last half of the year, yet they had been deposited in the treasury prior to the 30th of June, and the revenue had thus been substantially increased, with a false foundation for governmental self-congratulation.

Nor was this the only head of taxation in which there had been a marked increase. The collections for crown grants, for pre-emption claims, for mineral claims and for mill-sites all had been doubled, and the registration fees had been increased so perceptibly as to occasion general expressions of dissatisfaction throughout the province.

Taking all these into consideration, he could not agree that the country was to be congratulated upon any remission of taxation in proportion to the increase of revenue that was made possible by these direct and undesirable increases. Indeed, all things being equal, these increases should have overbalanced the deductions for decreased collections and left a much greater balance to the advantage of the revenue. With respect to the Columbia & Western railway, and the proposal indicated for substituting a cash subsidy for the land grant already passed by the legislature, it was impossible to speak in other than general terms without knowing the exact nature of the bargain proposed to be made between the railway company and the government as to the terms upon which it was suggested to buy back the grant of land in question. In the absence of specific information on this point, one could not say whether the proposal was to be endorsed as a business proposition or not, but speaking generally he had always been opposed to the giving of subsidies for the promotion of railway construction—it had been on this point that he had failed to agree with his party when that party directed the government of the country.

British Columbia had much land, but very little money. He therefore thought that when the province, by giving a reasonable amount of this otherwise waste land, could promote the opening up of railways through the country, it was better that this should be done than that a cash subsidy should be presented—for the cash had to be borrowed upon the credit of the province, whereas the land was in possession of the province and useless unless avenues of communication were provided.

As to the value of these public lands, such as it was now proposed to relieve the C. P. R. of—much depended of course upon the character and quality of the lands themselves; and from his own knowledge of the land in the Interior, for one acre that was fit for agricultural purposes there would be found a thousand upon which a practical, hard-headed farmer could not pay taxes if it were given him gratis.

For this reason he would continue to maintain that the giving of land grants was preferable to the giving of money as a general rule, where either one or the other was imperative to promote railway construction. The advantage of the land throughout the Interior—the value of the land was insignificant as a rule in comparison with the value of the minerals; and he would always be found ready to insist—as he had done in the past—that no mineral rights should pass with the grants, and that settlers and farmers should be secured in their ability at any time to obtain the land at a reasonable price.

Touching the question of redistribution, or partial redistribution, indicated in the speech, he felt compelled to contrast the present policy of the government with the policy declared to be theirs by these same gentlemen when in opposition—their contentions then being always to the effect that a thorough redistribution of the province should be made. They had condemned as not sufficiently broad every measure in the nature of redistribution that had been brought forward by the government of that day; and had asserted that when they should be given the reins of power one of their first actions would be to arrange for the proper representation of all sections of the province upon a fair and impartial plan.

It was on this declaration, among others, indeed, that the opposition of that time had faced the last elections, yet in the two sessions since then there had been given no indication of their intention to redeem their promise to the electors. To be consistent they should have been the last in the world as a government to suggest a measure of redistribution that could be regarded as a partial one. (Applause).

He felt compelled to agree with other honorable gentlemen who had preceded him—that if any further redistribution were taken in hand it should be a thorough redistribution of all the province—a re-arrangement of constituencies through and through.

The government had indicated an intention to provide a road through the Kitimaat valley, and as he was always in favor of and in accord with any government policy that aimed to give access to the country to miners and settlers, and thus promote the settlement and the development of the country, he would probably support the government in this measure. He might say that he did not know very much of the particular section of the country that it was proposed to benefit, but he presumed that the government had secured and would lay before the house such information as to the extent and resources of that country as would justify the step they had indicated an intention of asking the house to take.

Of the road to Omineca, he was aware that the character of the country to be penetrated was such as to justify the expectation of large and important development and a considerable increase of industrial population. Large amounts of money were involved in the construction of these two roads, and while he was not prepared to say that they were not roads that should be built, he hoped that in consideration of the necessities of the country the government would be prepared to make the necessary appropriations to permit of short lines of communication being opened up throughout the interior, to facilitate the opening up of the mines by giving ingress to miners and machinery, and also the taking up of land by agricultural settlers who in the absence of these most necessary short lines were prevented to a very appreciable extent from opening up the country. (Hear, hear).

If while providing for such roads as those referred to in His Honor's speech, involving large expenditures of public money, the government would not neglect the less expensive but equally if not more important short lines to which he had referred, they would show themselves alive to the best interests of the country; and in so doing would have his sympathy and active support. (Applause). It was only by intelligent appreciation of the small wants of the country, as well as the large, that a government showed itself alive in the fullest and best sense to the responsibilities and duties or its position.

He was glad to see that amendments to the Liquor License Act were contemplated. Such amendments were wanted and when they should be offered to the house he hoped that they would provide for the officers of the police exercising stricter oversight with respect to all licensed premises, so that the business carried on under license should not be improperly conducted, or degenerate into a nuisance to the neighborhood.

He regretted to see that no mention had been made of the farming industry in His Honor's speech. He could not account for this striking omission, and did not think that anyone would accuse the government of feeling so small a measure of interest in agriculture as absence of reference to this industry would appear to indicate. (Applause).

A country might become temporarily prosperous by the development of mining industry, but the fact should, nevertheless, not be lost sight of that the development of agriculture should wherever possible proceed simultaneously if the prosperity was to be continued to the greatest extent, and the country become self-sustaining. (Applause.) He sincerely hoped that while mention of agriculture had been omitted in the speech, the government had not entirely forgotten the farmer, and would do what lay in their power to improve his position and increase his chances of success.

The mining industry, too, in comparison with its great importance to British Columbia, had received very scant attention in the sessional programme—in fact practically nothing had been said, and he was quite at a loss to account for this. Was it because the ill-advised legislation of last session had already proven itself so unfavorable in its effect upon the industry that the government could no longer refer in glowing terms of pride to the advancement and condition of mining as they had in other years?

He recalled how even one year ago the speech congratulated the house and country upon the splendid progress and condition of mining; and was not inclined to believe that the same terms of congratulation could have been offered to the house at the present time. There could be no question that the country had suffered materially by the legislation of last session—chiefly through the alien act and the eight-hour law, which had operated most disadvantageously in the Atlin country and in the Kootenay. He had had long experience in the various districts of the province, and he could not recall a government which in so short a time had accomplished so much damage to a great industry of the country. (Hear, hear.) The legislation of last session—ill-advised it certainly was—had certainly greatly unsettled the conditions of the mining industry; it had antagonized labor and capital in a manner that could not fail to operate to the disadvantage of the province. Some of those who had been detrimentally affected by the passage of the measure in question were already taking steps towards recovery of substantial damages from the province—this government—and he hoped that when the Minister of Mines came to address the house he would give the members full information in this connection.

Still dealing with the subject of mining, the member directed the attention of the house to the effect of the repeal last session of section 8 of the Placer Mining Act—nothing being substituted. This section had provided explicit penalties for mining without first taking out a free miner's certificate, and the result had been as he had anticipated, that a very large number of Chinese and other aliens had done mining all through the past season without the contribution of one cent of revenue to the province. The government could not plead ignorance of the probable effect of this repeal of section 8, for when the matter was under consideration by the house last session, he had crossed the floor of the house and explained to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Mines the effect that the cancellation would necessarily have unless a portion at least were re-enacted.

The result, as he had said, was that hundreds of Chinese had been permitted to work without licenses, removing the gold of the country—besides many foreigners of other nationalities. The house had heard criticisms during many years upon the late government in connection with its alleged attitude towards the Chinese—it had been called the Mongolian government—but that government had certainly never done so much for the advantage of the Chinese and the disadvantage of the white population as had this present government in striking out these sections of the old and workable law, and thus permiting Chinese to work the placers without paying aught to the country.

He noted that he had been persistently attacked of late in that valuable paper, the Kamloops Sentinel, as a friend and employer of Chinese. The attacks in question had occasioned him neither distress nor uneasiness, however, as he had taken the first and every occasion on the platform and otherwise to properly refute them. He had been able on these occasions, as he did now in the house, to challenge anyone to deny that in all the various pursuits in which he had from time to time been engaged, he had never employed a Chinaman in any capacity. (Applause.)

Another point of the law of mining as at present constituted which was calculated to work disadvantage to the province, and was indeed doing so, was that applying to the holding of hydraulic properties by lease. There appeared no cogent or sufficient reason why the same protection should not be given the capitalist investing his money in an hydraulicing proposition as to his fellow putting his money into a quartz mine. Yet the one could secure a crown grant of the property with very little difficulty; the other could not.

Security additional to the lease had been found in practice to be absolutely essential to facilitate the enlistment of capital, and he declared he could never understand why placer mining by improved methods had been so handicapped as under this special feature of the law. It was far from correct to assume that the opening up of a quartz mine involved expense and the introduction of machinery, while the handling of a placer property did not.

On the contrary the working of a large hydraulicing property would be found every bit as expensive as the working of a quartz mine. There should therefore be the same security obtainable in the form of a crown grant, after the lapse of a certain time and the completion of certain work, as in the case of quartz.

Why, he asked, should not hydraulic mining be treated as favorably as quartz mining? Wherein did the one benefit the country, and the other fail? He hoped that the injustice herein would be recognized and met by the house, and the changes made that would enable hydraulic properties to appeal to capital with equal security, and therefore equal chance of success, as operators in quartz.

Since the last session of the house it would be remembered an order-in-council had been passed repealing section 6 of the Placer Mining Act and Section 8 of the Mineral Act. He had not heard any reason advanced for this action, although he was quite prepared to admit that there must be some very good and cogent reason to justify the government in so serious a step as virtually setting aside two statutes of the province. He hoped the government would explain these reasons at the earliest convenient date.

The point of the sections in question was that mining recorders under certain circumstances were enabled to perform the duties of gold commissioners; and the result of the order-in-council was to make much additional and unnecessary work for the miner. He had no doubt the difficulty arising out of this governmental action was seriously felt in Cariboo—it certainly was in Lillooet—and possibly it was also in Kootenay, although there the gold commissioners were closer together, and the difficulty would thereby be lessened.

Referring briefly to the difficulties of communication as bearing permanently upon the operation of this change in the law, the member for West Lillooet passed to a consideration of the change in the boundaries of mining divisions. In Lillooet particularly—he could not speak for the other divisions—the new regulations had worked clumsily and disadvantageously. Take for example the southeast line of Lillooet division, which had heretofore been the boundary of Yale. This new regulation had shifted this line up within five miles of the town of Lillooet, and yet instead of going to Lillooet (within sight) to record, the claim owner was forced to travel to Lytton or Ashcroft, 64 miles or 90 miles away.

This of course put the miners to great expense as well as unnecessary difficulty, and should not have been made. There must in reason have been some very strong reason for this, too, upon which he would be glad to hear from the Minister of Mines—while he hoped that it would be found not yet too late to remedy the difficulty. The new boundaries were no more natural boundaries than the old lines for mining divisions, which had always been found convenient, and would still meet all the wishes and necessities of the miners and the public if the government would only permit them to continue.

As for the general interests of the district that he had the honor of representing, there was at present a large amount of mining development in progress in the mining centres of that district, and those engaged were working at much disadvantage through the inadequacy of suitable roads and trails over which to get in machinery and supplies for the development of their properties. He trusted that the government would realize the necessity of improving these means of communication, by giving the district a fair share of the public appropriations, not forgetting that the district had always been a good producer of revenue. It might not be large in population as yet, but it would be found to have always returned more than it received from the public purse. This year it had indeed returned more revenue than had ever been asked for by the members in works and improvements required for the opening up and making productive of the district—this was a fact that should not, and he hoped would not, be lost sight of in the preparation of the estimates.

There was another matter—while the district was an eminently healthy one, it was as all mining districts, liable at any time to be the scene of mining accidents, and the necessity of immediate medical or surgical aid was therefore apparent. Yet the district of Lillooet was the only one in the province where the government had up to date given no aid to the maintenance of a hospital, of bonus for the securing of a resident physician.

Next taking up the conditions prevailing in the mines themselves, the member for West Lillooet said that while perhaps at the present time there was little for the inspector of metalliferous mines to do, he hoped that that official would visit Lillooet. There had been much complaint that the ventilation in a number of the mines was not up to the standard required by the law. He thought it would be a wise thing if the Minister of Mines would ascertain at the earliest possible date if sufficient precautions were taken to assure the workmen the sufficient supply of air that they were entitled to under the law.

In answer to a question by the minister, Mr. Smith said he referred more particularly to the Ben d'Or, but the necessity of inspection to which he referred applied to all the mines. The conditions might very possibly have improved at the Ben d'Or since the period to which he had had his attention directed last summer. That the ores of the district under present conditions yielded a handsome profit, was in itself sufficient to convince the world that the district contained rich quartz that it would pay well to work; it should also convince the government of the urgency of giving all the assistance possible in the nature of roads, bridges, and trails, for the encouragement of this industry, and the consequent augmentation of the provincial revenue and provincial prosperity. (Applause.)

The question was again offered to the house by Mr. Speaker, and it was evident that the members on the government side could not be tempted to concur in the debate, despite the many tributes to them to defend their acts and policy.

MR. BOOTH therefore next took the floor. He opened with a sharp condemnation of the Finance Minister, to whom elucidation of many features of the government's course had been left by his colleagues, and who now manifested an inclination to shirk the promised explanation or defend himself from the strong attacks of Messrs. Turner and McPhillips, and permit the amendment and motion to be decided by the force of the government's insignificantly small majority.

He took up the much-criticized eight-hour law, which, strange to say, had no part in the act as presented to the house last session, but had been slipped in as an amendment at midnight, without due notice and in contravention of all the rules and practice of the house. He looked upon such legislation as infringing directly upon the rights of labor, for it said in effect to the man who came to British Columbia with only his muscle for his capital, he might only utilize a part of this capital for his advancement. The principle might be good—he would not say that it was not—but the introduction was distinctly irregular; such a law should not have been perpetrated upon the country in the manner it had. The proper course now to be pursued he held to be the immediate withdrawal of the legislation in question, and its re-introduction, with every member fully aware of what was contemplated and intended. It was not so much the law itself that was working injury to the country, but the example it afforded of slipshod law-making—capital could not be tempted to investments where so radical changes in the law could be introduced and made law without notice or obedience to rules.

Hon. Mr. Henderson—Why weren't the opposition alert, as it was their place to be?

Because, Mr. Booth replied, there was at the time of its passage such an avalanche of reckless legislation before the house that they could not watch it all. He had himself been engaged in trying to disentangle the muddle that the Premier had got himself into in the Water Clauses bill, failing in which the Premier (admitting his position when it had been pointed out by the member for North Victoria) had withdrawn that measure. He contended that had it not been for the repudiation policy inaugurated and carried out by this government, contracts entered into by the late government would have been proceeded with which would have given British Columbia an unprecedented era of prosperity. Instead of seeking now to construct a road through the Kitimaat valley, the country would have had a railway built and in operation in that locality. Another great railway would have been in operation from the Boundary country, and as a sequence of the operation of the two, the extension of the railway to the north end of Vancouver Island would have been imperatively demanded, and all the United States trade with Alaska and other points in the Northwest would necessarily have passed through this channel.

He heartily concurred in the expressions that had been given of loyalty to the Empire in the present crisis, and while this would soon be settled, it brought the lesson to every part of the Empire that hereafter Britain must be prepared and expect to stand alone—Britain and her colonies against the world. This being the case, it was the paramount duty of each colony to so develop its inherent strength as to be prepared to assume its own part in the Imperial scheme, increase its population and its resources, and so become a more and more important factor among the nations. He did not think that any policy could be so well devised to accomplish this great end as the policy of broad-minded railway expansion that had been inaugurated by the leader of the opposition—that policy followed to its natural conclusion would have made this province a reservoir of strength in the Dominion, a right arm to the Imperial government in case of need.

MR. McBRIDE also had a sharp reproof for the government on what appeared to be either cowardice or inability to defend—whatever it was that had led them to sit silent. He referred to their lamentable exhibition of weakness, and apparent lack of appreciation of their duty. He held that the present would be a fit time in which to test the feelings of the people, and commented that if they had been imbued with statemanlike qualities, or any qualities above those of the most paltry politics, they would have gone to the people last year when the circumstances developed that had brought the third member for Vancouver to the other side of the house. Instead of taking the manly course, however, they had gone to New Westminster and consummated a deal with a gentleman elected as a straight supporter of the Turner party—a gentleman who had opposed the then opposition champion, Mr. J. C. Brown, tooth and nail. The government was in such straits that it accepted this man for one of the most important portfolios; it was in this, as in all its acts, discredited in the eyes of the people, and when the people had an opportunity of expressing their opinion it would be in the rejection of the party opposite so thoroughly that no one of the faces opposite would be found surviving the wreck. Highly complimenting Hon. Mr. Justice Irving for his splendid work as commissioner to adjust the Atlin mining disputes, the member for Dewdney denied that the late government could be held responsible for the tangle that necessitated the appointment of this commission in question, the discoveries in Atlin having been made on the very eve of the going out of power of that government. The real trouble was that the new government had let matters drift, despite intelligent representations to them of what the result would be, and had made a ridiculous arrangement of seasons which the commissioner was powerless to terminate. With respect to the proposed exchange of cash for the Columbia and Western railway land grant—this was a pure matter of business; and if it could be proven that the transfer was in the interest of the province it should be supported. While the alienation of public lands was always objected to, and subsidies were equally unpopular, it could not be overlooked that to secure necessary transportation facilities for the opening up of British Columbia it was necessary for the province to go to greater lengths than it would be for any other of the provinces. Touching the proposed partial redistribution to give a member to the Boundary Creek country, he was glad to see that this section of the country had so prospered under the encouragement originally given to it under the late government, as to require a member of it own. At the same time he urged with vigor the equal claim of Atlin to a member, assuring the house that this new district has come to stay—that it has not only population, but great quartz mines, railways and steamers in construction, every possible evidence that it is a country of substance. An extra member for Atlin he maintained would be only in keeping with the principle said to be enunciated in giving the member to the Boundary. Passing briefly over the history of the amendment of the Coal Mines Regulation and Liquor License Acts, he took up the need of Dewdney for a trunk road—urging the claim of his district in this connection with pertinacity and vigor. He acknowledged the assistance that had ben rendered him by the member for Vancouver (Mr. Tisdall), and asked why the road had not been given ere this.

Mr. Tisdall—I might say that while you were away, I attended to the interests of your constituents and got that trunk road.

Mr. McBride intimated that one would still have to use a very strong microscope to see it on going through the district. He referred briefly to the ignoring of the agricultural interests in the speech, and at five minutes to six moved the adjournment of the debate.

The D. & L. Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil will build you up, will make you fat and healthy. Especially beneficial to those who are "all run down." Manufactured by the Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

LOCAL NEWS.

Committed for Trial.—In the provincial police court yesterday Mr. Knox, of Spokane, was committed for trial on the charge of assaulting Mr. Webb, the road superintendent. No witnesses were called for the defence to answer the evidence given by the witnesses for the prosecution published yesterday.

Death at Seattle.—The death occurred at Seattle on Sunday of Mrs. C. L. Quagliotti, who, for a period of years was a resident of Victoria. She was 56 years of age. The remains will arrive from Seattle this morning on the steamer Victorian, and the funeral will take place at 1.30 this afternoon from the parlors of the British Columbia Funeral Furnishing Company's and at 2 at St. Andrew's R.C. cathedral.

Riches of Atlin.—A. McKilop of Brandon, Manitoba, and J. Dukas of Gaspe, Que., were arrivals yesterday morning on the Danube from the north. These gentlemen have been in Atlin district since early last spring prospecting, and are confident that next summer will be prolific of great results in quartz mining in that part of Cassiar. They state that a quartz property on Pine Creek has been bonded for $40,000 by "The Lord Hamilton Co.," and development work has been highly satisfactory. Copper ledges have also been located, and Messrs. McKilop and Dukas are owners of a claim on an island about 20 miles from the mouth of Pine Creek. The ledge is nearly 200 feet wide with leaves of native copper and quartz. They will return in the spring to do development work. Mr. Baird of Quebec, who also returned on the Danube, and who has some valuable property in the neighborhood of Port Renfrew, speaks most encouragingly of the future of Atlin. They are staying at the Dawson and have samples of their find.

Surgical Operations as a Cure for Piles...

Are Painful, Expensive and Dangerous—The Only Certain Cure is Dr. Chase's Ointment.

Besides the acute misery produced by the itching and burning of piles, this horrible disease is the more to be dreaded because a surgical operation is commonly considered the only effective cure.

Fortunately this is a mistaken idea, for physicians have learned to use Dr. Chase's Ointment instead of applying the knife, not only because it is less expensive and less risky, but also because it is a more effective cure.

If frequently happens that after people have endured the torture of piles for years and submitted to operations, that they are finally cured by Dr. Chase's Ointment, the only guaranteed cure.

Among persons operated on for piles and afterwards cured by Dr. Chase's Ointment we would mention Rev. J. A. Baldwin, of Arkona, Ont., H. H. Sutherland, Truro, N. S., and W. D. Thornton, Calgary, N.W.T.

Dr. Chase's Ointment truly works wonders, for it positively cures the worst cases of blind, itching, bleeding and protruding piles and all itching diseases. 60c. a box at all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates, & Co., Toronto.

For bronchitis, croup, coughs, colds and asthma no remedy can be compared to Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed and Turpentine.

Ladies to Aid Soldiers.

Citizens Form a Victoria Branch of the Soldiers' Wives' League

Represented All Over Canada—List of the Local Officers Chosen.

There assembled yesterday afternoon at the Drill hall representatives of the best element in Victoria in the persons of ladies prominent in fashionable society, determined upon forming in Victoria a branch of the Soldiers' Wives' League, an organization which was first formed in Ottawa, under the presidency of Mrs. Hutton, but which has now branches in nearly every city of prominence in the Dominion. The object of this league is to bring the wives of all soldiers together, whether of officers, warrant officers, N.C. officers or men of the staff, permanent corps and active militia of Canada, into closer touch and sympathy with one another, so that whether in sickness or in health they may be able to mutually aid and assist one another and their families in times of difficulty, trouble or distress.

Lieut.-Col. Prior, M.P.; Lieut.-Col. Gregory and Major Bennet were present and addressed the large gathering of ladies, pointing out the desirability of forming such a branch here and commending the patriotism of the ladies who had taken the initiative in the matter.

Col. Prior, who opened the meeting, was glad to see such a large number of representative ladies present, engaged in such a noble work, and was sure a large flourishing branch of the order would be established and maintained as a result of their efforts. The war in South Africa necessitating extra drafts from Canada, made it all the more urgent that such an organization should be established now. As British Columbia was not behind in offering men, neither would it be behind in caring for those left behind by the "Absent-minded Beggars."

The work of organization was then proceeded with, the following officers being chosen: Vice-president, Mrs. Peters; hon. secretary, Mr. A. W. Jones; hon. treasurer, Mrs. Prior; executive committee—Mrs. Pooley, Mrs. Munro, Miss Williams, Miss Pemberton, Miss Keefer and Mrs. Hart. The general committee will consist of Mrs. James Dunsmuir, Mrs. Frank Barnard, Miss Harvey, Miss Drake and others.

The ladies are particularly enthusiastic over the movement and are determined that the Victoria branch shall not be behind the one about to be formed by the ladies of Vancouver. Another meeting will be held at the drill hall on Tuesday evening next.

As the small provincial towns will probably desire to form branches also, it is considered advisable to publish the following "Proposed Rules for Local Branches of the Soldiers' Wives' League."

ORGANIZATION.

The following is the organization, viz:

A vice-president, general committee, executive or working committee, an honorary secretary and an honorary treasurer.

The vice-president should be the wife of the officer commanding the military district, or of one of the senior officers.

The general committee should consist of officers' wives and the wives of those connected with, or interested in the troops.

The executive or working committee, not less than seven in number, should consist of the wives of officers representing each regiment and corps connected with the local branch, the wife of the regimental sergeant-major or of a N.C. officer representing each regiment or corps; additional members may be selected by the general committee if considered advisable, three of whom should form a quorum.

The chairwoman and members of the executive committee should be elected at an annual general meeting of the members.

MEMBERSHIP.

The wives, mothers and sisters of all officers, N.C. officers and men of the permanent and militia forces of Canada are eligible as members.

Honorary members may also be elected by the executive committee from among those interested in the military forces of Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION.

An annual subscription of twenty-five cents shall be paid by all members.

Honorary members are invited to give any sums of twenty-five cents or upwards.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

An annual general meeting should be held, at which the vice-president should preside. The members of the general committee, etc., will then be elected.

Reports should be prepared beforehand by the honorary teasurer and secretary and executive committee.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

A central committee will be organized at Ottawa, which shall form the executive centre of the Soldiers' Wives' League, of which Mrs. Hutton will be president.

An annual general meeting of the Soldiers' Wives' League will be held at Ottawa.

An annual report from each local branch should be sent by post on November 1, addressed to the president, Earnscliffe, Ottawa.

If possible at least one representative from each local branch should be sent to the Ottawa annual meeting, the date of which will be duly notified.

WORK, ETC.

Suggestions for work to be done:

To form occasional meetings to bring all members together.

Cases of sickness to be visited.

Cases of distress to be helped.

If extra funds required, try to raise by a concert, or sale of work, etc. Sewing classes or reading classes could be organized.

In a case of sickness a nurse could be provided if patient could not afford one.

An annual meeting in October is suggested for all members to attend, inscribe their names, and pay the twenty-five cents fee.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S CATARRH CURE ... 25c. is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. Heals the ulcers, clears the air passages, stops droppings in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. Blower free. All dealers, or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.