

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

PREMIER W. L. MANSION
CONSIDER RAILWAYS

He Has No Present Intention of Dealing With Transportation Legislation This Session.

Victoria, Jan. 15th, 1905.

The legislature this afternoon got down to work in earnest, sitting until 10 o'clock. The afternoon was largely devoted to the debate on the reply to the address of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

In the course of the debate the premier, profiting by the lesson taught in previous sessions, announced that there would be no railway legislation this year. In other words the premier has deferred a definite answer on this subject and postponed putting himself on record. This has bred all kinds of trouble, so that in order to avoid the difficulty this session he took occasion to early set the House at rest on the subject.

The feature of the afternoon was the address of J. A. Macdonald, leader of the opposition, who severely criticized the government for its policy of inaction on the railway question. He showed how the premier had deceived the electorate before election and the House from session to session in the matter of a railway policy which has been deferred. The readiness of Mr. Macdonald to vote a million and a half as a railway bonus last session was referred to, the leader of the opposition stating that this was only prevented by Mr. MacGowan turning recalcitrant. The School Act was also subjected to a short criticism. Mr. Macdonald giving expression to the sentiment that the duty of the trustees even if the act were bad was to be true to the interests of the rising generation and carry it out as well as could be until amended.

The Kaituma Island grant made by the government was described by the leader of the opposition as an illegal one made in the very teeth of the Land Act. It was a bonus to the Grand Trunk Pacific made without the sanction of the legislature. The most valuable piece of land in the province, in consequence of being the terminus of the railway and the northern metropolis of British Columbia, had been disposed of for \$1 an acre. Fifteen square miles had been given as a bonus to the railway to be used for townsite purposes. He pointed out that if this could be done at Kaituma Island every townsite along the line of the railway could be given away and in turn every one along the route given. This was clearly not the spirit of the Land Act, and the government had violated the statute in spirit and in fact. So satisfied was Mr. Macdonald in this contention that he challenged the attorney-general to test the right in the courts.

The agreement of the government to hand over the 10,000 acres to E. V. Bodwell personally, who appeared as the solicitor of the Grand Trunk Pacific, was described as a most unbecoming proceeding. The leader of the opposition pointed out that the evident intention of the present government was to take away from the legislature the power to say what disposition should be made of the lands of the province. Last session it secured the right to deal with the Songhees Indian reserve without referring it to the House. Now in Northern British Columbia the crown lands were disposed of as a bonus to a railway company without the sanction of the legislature.

The address of Mr. Macdonald called for a hearty applause and he scored his points on the government. The reply of Premier McBride was weak and, as usual, he slid gracefully from the points of attack without attempting to answer them.

The speeches of the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech of His Honor were well received. The title of a controversial nature arising from the debate.

During the afternoon speakers on both sides made reference to the loss which had been sustained in the House by the retirement of W. W. B. MacGowan, who had filled the office of commissioner of the Yukon.

Prayers were read at the opening of the House by Rev. Canon Beaulieu. The consideration of the address was then proceeded with.

W. Manson, in rising to move the reply to the address of His Honor, was greeted with applause from the government side. He said that he felt proud to have the honor thus assigned him. He was specially proud inasmuch as he represented a constituency which had up to this session been represented by a member of the opposition. The opposition felt when the vacancy occurred that they had this constituency in their pockets.

Previous representatives had been given promotion from the constituency. One of these had been given a position at several hundred dollars a year, while the second one got a position at as much as three hundred dollars a year. It was therefore a constituency to be sought by a member of the opposition. There might be some consolation in this.

He thought a model farm in the province would be a good thing for the improvement of stock. Such a farm, he thought, in a short time would become self-supporting.

During his address he referred to a trip to the upper country where he saw the capacity of the Similkameen as a fruit producer. He stood under a cherry tree which had produced \$100 worth of fruit. Peach trees lived longer than most pears.

He thought the province should do something in the direction of effecting a settlement of the Indian reserve question by which the vast areas held as reserves might be thrown open for settlement. The day of the romantic Indian was past.

On the question of railroads he was glad to see by the address that the

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tion in this for a representative of the constituency.

He expressed his readiness to support the government, although he did not pretend to say that the members of that government were perfect. If the premier continued to transact business as in the past, however, he would still remain the white-headed boy in the eyes of the country. He was of the opinion that after the experience of previous years it was only proper to have a government which would build up the finances of the country.

The opposition had represented Albert previous to the election as the voice of the province. The voice had spoken in favor of the government.

Albani represented nearly every industry of the country. At Cape Scott there was a farming community. Further down the coast lumbering, fishing and mining were well represented.

He referred to the needs of railway communication to fully develop the constituency.

Referring particularly to the speech of His Honor, Mr. Macdonald said that the opposition papers were very reluctant to give any credit to the provincial government for any share in the prosperity of the country. These papers, however, have been running and giving credit to the Dominion government for prosperity in the Northwest. He was prepared to give credit wherever credit was due.

The country should feel proud of the government which grappled with the finances of the province in the way it had done it. It was not a popular thing to reduce expenditure and increase taxation. This the present government did, however. The people of the province in general had manifested loyalty.

He was pleased to see that there were steps being taken to arrange a settlement of the fishery question between the local government and the Federal authorities.

He was glad to see steps taken to develop the forest interests of the province.

The mining industry was shown to be in a prosperous condition, and this year \$21,000,000 would be produced from the mines. The increase he felt was due to the fact that the laws were left unchanged.

Referring to railroads, he expressed the idea that the time had apparently come when aid should not be required for the construction of railroads. He was well satisfied with the policy of the present government in the matter of railroads.

While being treated with game laws he thought a larger bounty might be placed on the destruction of panthers. With reference to the Kaituma Island grant, he said that he thought the government should be congratulated upon the bargain made with reference to the Grand Trunk Pacific terminus. The action of the government had prevented the terminus going to a point where it would be controlled by speculators. It had been secured at a point where it would be of the greatest benefit to the province.

While in the House he expected to have his differences with members of the legislature, but he hoped that the motives of all would always be to work in the best interests of the country.

A. H. B. MacGowan.

A. H. B. MacGowan seconded the address. He said that little was expected from the seconder. He congratulated the mover. Albert had done himself and a second time in sending Mr. MacGowan to the legislature the constituency had sent a man who would do honor to any House. Mr. MacGowan would yet make a record for himself in the Yukon.

Mr. MacGowan said he was not going to make a speech. He had been reminded that after he had made what he considered a pretty good speech in the House he would be told by a young lawyer that a little talk like he (Mr. MacGowan) had made took better than a speech. He would therefore give a little talk.

The speaker who had been told by a young lawyer that a little talk like he (Mr. MacGowan) had made took better than a speech. He would therefore give a little talk. He favored taxing real estate and income. He thought the time had come when there might be a centralization in the collection of taxes. He thought that the taxes collected through the municipal authorities.

The timber industry required wise legislation. He believed that by June 30th, 1905, it would be shown that one-third more was derived from timber than previous to this.

There might be more expended in the protection of the forests. In Ontario there was a very good system of force which called for the owners sharing in the cost of protection.

He congratulated the province on the advertising done by the fruit exhibits in the Old Country. He favored greater unity of action among the Farmers' Institutes, the Dalrymple's Association and the Fruit Growers' Association.

He advocated a system of grading and making butter so that the purchaser might know what he was getting.

He thought a model farm in the province would be a good thing for the improvement of stock. Such a farm, he thought, in a short time would become self-supporting.

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time had not quite come when assistance to railroads might cease. He favored a third grant to some railways where the necessities warranted it.

If there had been lavish bonusing at last session the Similkameen would have been thrown back from its position to-day. It would be remembered what a lobby was put up against some small amendments to a bill permitting the Great Northern to come in from the south. If a bonus had been given to a road from the north the more advantageous road from the south would have been delayed and the country held back. There were parts of the country, however, in which a bonus might be given in land.

The school bill might require some amendments which would be asked for by representatives from the reserves' convention held in the lower Mainland.

He thought that in connection with the health of the province that a closer connection might be made between the municipal health officials and those of the province. There might be concerted action in the matter.

Mr. MacGowan said, referring to the successes in Alberta and Saskatchewan that these victories for the Liberal party were all arranged beforehand. These victories had to be won at any cost and accordingly the Liberal party had been successful.

The province had made little advance towards better terms since last year. He advised now, as he did a year ago, that the province should do better in the city which the ties which bound the province to the Dominion. The province did not come as a humble supplicant in demanding better terms, but came as a business man demanding his play. If it could be got in no other way it should be by petitioning the greatest sovereign who reigns on earth.

Opposition Leader.

J. A. Macdonald, leader of the opposition, in rising to reply, was greeted with long, continued applause.

A full report of Mr. Macdonald's speech appears in another column.

Premier McBride.

Premier McBride congratulated the mover and seconder of the address. He referred also to Mr. MacGowan, paying a compliment to the services rendered by him to the legislature and the province. His successor, he held, would be a worthy one.

The premier contended that the leader of the opposition had given nothing in his address to show what might be expected of him if he came into power.

If credit was not due to the government of British Columbia for its advances in the agricultural industry, then to whom was it due? Not to the opposition surely, nor to the Dominion government. The present minister of agriculture was the premier's friend, which the industry in the province had had. That gentleman went to London at his own expense a year and a half ago and personally arranged for the placing of an exhibit in the city which carried off medals and prizes over all corners. Encouraged by this action a carload had been sent over under the charge of Mr. Palmer. The efforts of 1904 had been surpassed this year and Mr. Palmer had disposed of it at a price which, when the returns were made, would show that this excellent exhibit cost the country very little.

By reason of the grant to the New Westminster fair last year it was decided that no other grants would be made to any other fairs. Nelson was cut off from a grant like other places in consequence of the grant to New Westminster. The leader of the opposition concurred in this action of the legislature. The government, without being extravagant, had endeavored to attract all the settlers possible to the province.

Dealing with the railway situation, the premier said that at the first session of the parliament there were many proposals made for railway construction. This represented projects involving thousands of miles of railway and millions of dollars for subsidies. After careful consideration nothing was done. During the recess the scope of the railways proposed was extended and in addition to Coast-Kootenay and V. V. & E. lines, railways from the Arctic Circle to the south were represented in asking aid. Again nothing was done at the second session of the parliament. He thought the public suffered by this.

The leader of the opposition, however, proposed to make all kinds of grants of land to railways.

The leader of the opposition, rising, said he wished to set this straight right here. He defied the premier to show in any reported speech of his (Mr. Macdonald) either in the House or out of it, that he had advocated a land grant to any railway.

The premier thought he could produce such.

Mr. Macdonald defied him to do so. At this the third session of the legislature the premier said he found 12 or 15 applications for aid to railways embracing land and cash. There seemed to be a light way of treating these proposals on the part of some. It was supposed to be a light matter to make a proposal to the government for a railway, and get an answer the next day.

It was not the intention of the government to introduce any railway legislation at this session. At Ottawa he was informed that the practice was to make no announcement as to the various schemes proposed until towards the end of the session, when the subsidy bill came down. As at present advised, it was not the intention to bring in any railway legislation this session.

The V. V. & E. was now building to the coast. He did not know the source of the information which the leader of the opposition gave that the government last session proposed to subsidize another line practically to paralyze

this at a cost of \$1,500,000. The premier said he knew of no such intention.

The Nicola Valley line was being surveyed by a railway which would much for opening up that district.

The premier then waxed wroth in setting forth that the promises alleged to have been made by Liberal members at the election of 1904 that the Grand Trunk Pacific was to be constructed immediately had not been carried out. This was the most important item in connection with railway construction in the province.

During a trip to the north as far as Bulkley valley he was impressed with the value of the district. That section of the country, he believed, would be found second to none in the province when it was given transportation facilities.

He defended the Kaituma Island grant, the justice of which he said would be proved when the terminals of the Grand Trunk Pacific were placed there. The province retained 2,500 acres of the townsite and a quarter of the water power. This was a very good thing for the province, bringing millions to the exchequer. He was proud of the arrangement made.

If the terminus did not go to Kaituma Island, he would go to Port Simpson or Kitimaat. If it went to Port Simpson the province would get little or nothing. If it went to Kitimaat the province would get a portion of the water power. This was a very good thing for the province, bringing millions to the exchequer. He was proud of the arrangement made.

There seemed to be an inference that there was something "crooked" about this matter. This he denied. This was a purely business transaction. The government had dealt directly with the Grand Trunk Pacific company.

A splendid bargain had been made. It had pleased the friends who had lived at Kitimaat and Simpson.

"That's what I thought," said John Oliver.

What does the member mean by that? The premier said, "The Chief Justice, Mr. Munro and others are my personal friends."

"What I mean," said Mr. Oliver, "is to say that if these men had not been the premier's friends they would not have got grants."

The premier denied that there was any distinction made between Grit and Tory in transactions with the government.

The School Act would be amended at this session. The country was falling in line with the School Act. There was some little objection to the methods of collection and some amendments were therefore necessary.

He defended the policy of the government in cutting down the expenditure. The affairs of the country had, he said, been dealt with in a business-like way. The people of the province had understood the situation and if an appeal were made to the country "hardly a vestige of the Liberal party would be returned."

The premier defended the Dyking Act and said he was prepared to stand or fall by it.

With reference to the hopeful condition of the mining industry, the premier gave credit to the Dominion government for the lead bounty, and the increased prices of metals, but he thought a good deal was due to the stable condition of the mining laws of the province. The outlook was excellent. The press of the province, independent of the publications from the government offices, had done a great deal of good in the mining industry in the province.

On the subject of "better terms" he said that it was expected that a conference of the provincial premiers would be called within a few months, when the subject of better terms would be discussed.

Referring to W. W. B. MacGowan, the premier said: "We were boys together and attended the same school." His speech had been brilliant and his Federal capital he had had a highest record. In the local legislature the same brilliancy had surrounded him. He hoped when he returned to the province that he would again return to the legislature.

Debate Adjourned.

Chas. Munro moved the adjournment of the debate, which was carried.

Return Presented.

A return of papers relating to acts passed by the legislature in the assembly during 1905 and reported upon by the Dominion Privy Council was presented by the provincial secretary.

New Bills.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:

By Hon. C. Wilson, a bill to amend the Companies Act, 1905.

By J. H. Hawthornthwaite, a bill to extend the franchise to women; and a bill to amend the Provincial Elections Act.

Resolution.

J. Oliver moved the following resolution, which was carried:

"That an order of the House be granted for a return forthwith of all copies of all Orders in Council, agreements, grants, maps, letters, telegrams or other papers in possession of the government relative to the acquisition by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company of lands at Kaituma Island, or elsewhere in British Columbia, whether for right of way, terminal or townsite purposes, or by way of subsidy."

Second Reading.

In introducing the second reading of the bill to amend the B. C. Securities Company Act, 1905, the attorney-general said that it had been found that the company with the company was incorporated greater powers were given than the province had a right to give. The power to establish boards of directors and agencies outside of the province had been conferred by statute. This was beyond the powers of the legislature, and the bill rescinded this.

The bill passed its second reading and was then read a third time. It was then carried.

Premier's Statement.

Before adjournment Premier McBride read an Ottawa dispatch to the Times relative to the disposition of the fishery interests of the province to the Dominion. The premier said: "I wish

to say that that report is absolutely untrue. He said that negotiations had been conducted with the Dominion authorities, none of them were along the lines outlined.

The House then adjourned until tomorrow.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Victoria, Jan. 15th, 1905.

In the House this afternoon the debate on the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor was continued. Four members of the opposition took part in it. Chas. W. Munro, of Chilliwack, J. R. Brown, of Greenwood, W. G. Cameron, of Victoria, and J. Murphy, of Campbell. On the Conservative side L. W. Shatford, of Similkameen, and the attorney-general contributed to the debate.

The Liberal members all dealt in unmistakable terms with the scanty bill of facts presented. Mr. Murphy described it as sufficient only to keep two men and a boy occupied for a week. Mr. Munro's speech was a characteristic one. There was no mingling of matters with him, no unfair advantage taken of his opponent's but in a deliberate speech clothed in finished language he laid bare the inequities of the present administration.

Mr. Munro is not a frequent speaker in the House, but his contributions to the debates are among the most finished addresses of the session.

Mr. Brown is another able debater. He was the weak point of the government measures. Representing a mining district he is naturally interested in the advancement of that industry. He exposed the government's lack of administrative ability in dealing with the coal and oil lands of Southeast Kootenay and the injustice of the mineral tax.

W. G. Cameron, among other telling points made against the government, introduced the long-winded Indian reserve question. He also took the government to task for pinching out the bill introduced by the municipal committee last session.

Mr. Murphy, who is without an equal in the legislature, in his own class, contributed to the debate the humorous side. Behind it all Mr. Murphy made telling hits at the self exaltation of the members of the government as contained in the speech from the throne and at the lack of business provided for the session.

On the government side the speech of the attorney-general was a characteristic one. Comrade Wilson gave Comrade Hawthornthwaite credit for having the greatest oratorical ability in the House now that W. W. B. MacGowan had left it. The attorney-general pretended to deal exhaustively with the Kaituma Island grant, which he did in characteristic style.

L. W. Shatford made a good speech. He frankly admitted that he agreed to the increased taxation with reluctance. His remarks relative to increased appropriations for his constituency indicate that the government will deal lavishly with him this year.

Prayers were read by Rev. Canon Beaulieu.

Extension of Powers.

A petition was presented by Geo. A. Fraser relative to the West Kootenay Fire & Lightning Company, in which it is sought to extend the scope of the company's powers to include Yale district, and also to allow of the taking over of another company's works.

C. W. Munro.

Chas. W. Munro, of Chilliwack, resumed the debate on the address in reply to the speech from His Honor.

He was greeted with applause from both sides of the House on rising. He congratulated the mover and seconder of the address. He had never heard a new member acquit himself more gracefully than did the member for Alberni. He also congratulated the government upon calling the House together at this season of the year. It was more convenient and he thought would be conducive to better results.

He protested against the time honored custom of adjourning the House from Thursday until Monday after the formal opening. It had come to this, that if the practice were continued few members would attend the opening.

Coming to the speech itself, Mr. Munro said it recalled to his mind the humorous reference made to the German Emperor which the latter attributed honor to me and Gott. A similar exultation seemed to have come to the framers of the speech, who attributed the prosperity of the country to themselves and Providence.

The speech, he said, attributed to the government the renewing of the credit of the province in the money markets. He recalled the time when the loan bill came up in the first session of the House and the cry of blue devils raised from the government side. The opposition took a different view of the situation at that time. The latter held that the depression was short lived and would soon be passed over. He borrowed of the money at 5 per cent., extending it over the period of ten years, was strongly condemned by the opposition. On the other hand, from his side of the House it was advised that a loan to cover a short period be made. It was urged that the depression would soon pass away and the money could then be borrowed on more advantageous conditions.

The opposition opposed the principle of a long loan, and in a resolution proposed that the loan should not extend over three years. Already two years had passed and the government came down to the House and reported that the depression had passed. There was surely great consolation for the opposition in this. For their prophecy had been more correct than the government's. The government pursued this wild plunging because it was in a panic stricken.

Another bill introduced at that time was the Assessment Bill. The extravagance of that bill was such that after one session the more extreme parts had to be amended. These bills were not called for and would not have been introduced had the government not been more frightened by the banks.

The Land Act was also introduced in such drastic shape that it would have meant the confiscation of the timber crown lands of the province. Through the opposition some of the worst features of that measure were wiped out.

The government took credit to itself for the development of the timber industry. This advance was more due

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TH, VANCOUVER ISLAND, B. C.

uncan's Station, Vancouver Island, B.C. Clermont Livingstone, General Manager

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intend to apply to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for the incorporation of North Saanich District by Letters Patent under the Public Seal into a District Municipality to be known as the Corporation of the District of North Saanich.

JAMES BRYCE, GEORGE LANGSTON.

Notice is hereby given that, sixty days after date, we intend to apply to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to purchase the following described land: Commencing at the southeast corner post on Deane Lake, Cassiar, near Fort St. John, Lot 26, the north 10 chains, thence east 40 chains, thence south the lake shore, thence following the lake shore to the point of commencement, and containing 100 acres more or less.

Dated at Victoria, B. C., 11th Dec. 1905. THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF ADVENTURERS OF ENGLAND TRADING INTO HUDSON'S BAY.

LAND REGISTRY ACT.

In the Matter of an Application for a Duplicate Certificate of Title to Lot 1 of Section 31 (Map 22), Victoria District.

Notice is hereby given that it is my intention to apply to the Registrar-General for a duplicate of the certificate of title to the above land, issued to Robert George Johnston on the 8th day of September, 1891, and numbered 1399.

S. Y. WOOTTON, Registrar-General. Land Registry Office, Victoria, B.C., 15th December, 1905.

LICENSE TO AN EXTRA-PROVINCIAL COMPANY.

"Companies Act, 1897."

Province of British Columbia, No. 313.

"THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the 'Metropolitan Life Insurance Company' is authorized and licensed to carry on business within the province of British Columbia, and to carry out or effect all or any of the objects of the Company to which the legislative authority of the Legislature of British Columbia extends."

The head office of the Company is situated at the City of New York, in the State of New York.

The amount of the capital of the Company is two million dollars, divided into eighty thousand shares of twenty-five dollars each.

The head office of the Company in this province is situated at Vancouver, and James T. Fahay, superintendent, whose address is Vancouver, is the attorney for the Company.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Victoria, province of British Columbia, this 21st day of November, one thousand nine hundred and five.

L. S. Y. WOOTTON, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. The objects for which this Company has been established and licensed are: To make insurance upon the lives of insured persons, and to invest the proceeds of the same in real estate, and to grant, purchase or dispose of annuities.

to the liberal immigration laws of the Federal government, which has brought settlers onto the prairies and produced a market for the timber of the province.

He was glad to hear that the minister of finance had taken such active interest in the fruit growing industry. But the great credit for the expansion of the orchards was due to men like Mr. Ellison and Mr. Shatford, whose enterprise had led to the extension of the fruit growing areas.

The government was entitled to expect the extension of the lumbering and farming industry. An agent-general was kept up at a salary of \$10,000 a year in London. Yet this was not all the cost of the province. He was which the office cost the province. He was in addition to this salary the sum of \$242.50 paid for bus and cab hire for the agent-general.

The agent-general might dispense charity as he saw fit, and he knew no one much better able to do so, but Mr. Munro thought the province should not be called upon to pay it. This was the first time that he knew that the province kept up a charity department at London.

He took exception to the proposal of Mr. MacGowan to have butter graded by inspection. He showed that the best of butter might become tainted by being put in proximity to noxious gases.

The speech went on to say that it was hoped that increased grants would be made to public works, Mr. Munro said.

The withholding by the government