

was advanced and consideration must be hurried, that the bill be withdrawn. Hon. Mr. Eberts moved that the debate be adjourned. This was carried. The House rose at 11.10.

Victoria, May 1st.
Prayers were read by Rev. Mr. Sweet. Supply.

The report of the resolutions adopted in supply was received, adopted and read a first, second and third time, and finally passed.

New Bills.
Mr. Kidd introduced an act to amend the Drainage, Dyking and Irrigation Act. It was read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Eberts introduced a bill to empower the city of Greenwood to confirm the appropriation of certain lands. This was also read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Eberts also introduced a bill to validate by-law 314 of the city of Victoria. It was read a first time.

Hon. Mr. Eberts introduced a bill to amend the New Westminster Relief Act. It was read a first time.

Mr. Curtis introduced a bill to amend the Coal Mines Act. It was read a first time.

Japanese Judgment.
Hon. Mr. Eberts presented copies of the judgments in the Japanese cases. The previous night, he explained, he had said that the judgments were not all in. This was a mistake. They had all been in on Saturday, but had not been placed before him.

Railway Correspondence.
Mr. Gilmour moved: "That an order of this House be granted for a return of all correspondence, papers, documents and advertisements referring in any way to the construction of the following railways:—

(a) For a railway from the present terminus of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway to the northern end of Vancouver Island, approximately two hundred and forty miles;

(b) For a railway from Rook Creek to Vernon to connect with the Shuswap & Okanagan railway, approximately one hundred and twenty-five miles;

(c) For a railway from the Coast, at Kitimat, to Hazelton, approximately one hundred miles;

(d) For a railway from Fort Steele to Golden, approximately one hundred and fifty miles.

The reason for asking for this correspondence he explained was because of the railway bill now before the House.

Mr. Helmcken not being in his place his "compendious" resolution was passed, with Mr. Curtis's amendment thereto.

Stood Over.
Mr. Neil's resolution regarding the leases of the Crown & B. C. Lumber Co. also stood, at the request of the Chief Commissioner.

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had the same right to exact the royalty from the E. & N.

The Premier: It has nothing to do with this House.

Mr. Martin held that they could quite as properly do so as in the case of the Kaslo & Slocan railway. Why not carry the matter to the courts?

The Premier: We don't generally get justice in the courts.

Mr. Martin replied that if this was the case there should be a change in the courts.

Continuing, Mr. Martin held that when he was in office he had exacted the royalty, he granted a flat as soon as demanded, and not a cent of damages had been collected from the government in consequence.

Mr. Gilmour complained that the bill had been stood over from day to day at the Attorney-General's request, and then had been put through during his (Mr. Gilmour's) absence.

In concluding the debate, Mr. Curtis pointed out that if the case ever did get into the courts and was decided against the province, it would put the government in a very bad position; if decided in favour of the province, it would show that there was no necessity for it. More, he claimed that the bill was expressly framed to exclude the E. & N. from its operation. The Premier should remember that the government could when others would be in power and he could not complain if the same measure was meted out to him as he had meted out to others.

The motion was carried.

Queensland Expenditure.
Mr. Rogers moved: "That an order of this House be granted for a return of all correspondence, papers, documents and advertisements referring in any way to the proposed expenditure of \$10,000 for the protection of the Queen's wharf at the Forks."

Mr. Rogers wanted to know who asked for this appropriation. Neither he nor his colleague had done so, and he thought the sum excessive.

Mr. Martin explained the damage mentioned to the fact that tallings had been run into the river by the Cariboo Consolidated Co. He wished that company nothing ill, but they were getting large profits out of the country, and the latter should not be required to pay this sum. The expense would be a continuing one, as large amounts would have to be spent every year. The work, he had done last year without tender, and he wanted an explanation of it.

Hon. Mr. Wells explained that the work had to be done quickly, there being an emergency, and he therefore commended the direct action of the government agent there to have the work done as economically and expeditiously as possible. He would have regarded himself as responsible if by that method and his failure to do so had been a loss to property. There had been no jobbery whatever in the matter.

As to the cause of the damage, he had no report whatever beyond that the spring freshets threatened the town.

Mr. Hunter believed the Cariboo Consolidated Company was responsible for the trouble, but he was of the opinion that the legislature had no power to prevent them putting tallings into the river.

Mr. Rogers said that the trouble had existed before the company named had commenced operations.

The resolution passed.

Division for Vancouver.
Capt. Tatlow asked the Minister of Mines: "Is it the intention of the government to establish a mining division, with headquarters in the city of Vancouver?"

Hon. Mr. McBride replied: "Yes."

Inaccurate.

Hon. Mr. Eberts rose to say that the statement of the leader of the opposition that he had granted a flat immediately in connection with the royalty was incorrect.

Free Land Pre-emptors.
Mr. Neil asked the Chief Commissioner: "Is it the intention of the government to make suitable regulations, to introduce a system of free land pre-emption?"

Hon. Mr. Wells replied: "Yes."

District Telephone.
The House went into committee on the District Power & Telephone Co., with Mr. Oliver the chair.

Mr. Hunter introduced an amendment permitting the company to install a telephone system in the city. He did so because the company was allowed by the bill to compete with the Street Car Company in its power system. The telephone rate in Victoria was too high, and competition with that company was just as proper as with the Street Car Company.

Mr. Hayward observed that the member for Cariboo was more careful of the corporations than of the public. He favored the telephone clause, while Mr. Hall, who had charge of the bill, said the telephone clause had been struck out after consultation with the members of the city council.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Hayward introduced a motion to make the telephone clause apply to Esquimalt district. This was strongly opposed by Mr. McPhillips, but the mover urged that district should have the same right to competition as North and South Victoria. The amendment passed.

Mr. Martin observed that Victoria city had been denied competition which was granted to the hamlet of Esquimalt, whose member seemed to have more influence than all four of the Victoria members. (Laughter.)

About an hour and a half was here wasted on points or order, which seemed to be raised almost exclusively for purposes of pleasantry and for the heckling of the department. Mr. Oliver, who was anxious to go on with business, finally won the House had got into a hopeless tangle on these points the withdrawal of the bill was demanded, and the whole matter was finally given to the Speaker for decision.

The committee report reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Fisheries.
A Bill respecting the Fisheries of British Columbia was transmitted by message and referred to a committee of the whole House forthwith. The committee rose at 4 o'clock, and adjourned, introducing and read a first time.

Supreme Court Act.
The Supreme Court Act Amendment Bill came up on report. Mr. Houston moved that the word Nelson be substituted for that of Vancouver in the

clauses providing for Supreme court sittings in that bill. In support of his contention the mover said that up to 1800 sittings of the Supreme court had been held in Victoria only. In that year the Vancouver ministry had been in power and had caused half of the sittings to be held there. This policy of decentralization he believed was a mistake. But if it was to be decentralized, the alteration city should be in the country where the majority of the cases emanated from. It had been argued that it was unhandy for counsel to come down to Victoria. This applied perhaps to Vancouver, but so far as Kootenay counsel were concerned, if they had to come to the Coast at all it was just as handy for them to come to Victoria. Over 40 per cent. of the appeals were from Kootenay.

Mr. Curtis supported Mr. Houston. He would like to see the Kootenay court at Rossland, but he would not quarrel over the matter. If members voted on the matter, they might support the motion.

Capt. Tatlow said a deliberate attempt had been made last session to take the court from Vancouver. He was sorry to see it reversed, and could not help thinking it was intended as a joke.

Mr. Martin said the figures quoted did not prove that the bulk of litigation came from Kootenay. He was sorry to see it reversed, and could not help thinking it was intended as a joke.

On privilege, Mr. Curtis said he did not want to see Vancouver sittings abolished, but merely to have supplementary sittings at other places.

Mr. McPhillips still opposed decentralization.

Mr. Green said let the different parts have the business that belonged to them. Hon. Mr. McBride moved the adjournment of the debate.

Municipal Committee.
Mr. Garden submitted the report of the municipal committee.

Petition.
Mr. Helmcken presented a petition asking for amendments to the Game Act.

On the Premier moving that the House at its rising stand adjourned until tomorrow at 2 a.m., protest was entered by a number of members who held that the fact that a number of members wanted to attend the theatre was no excuse for an adjournment until tomorrow. The motion, however, prevailed and the House rose.

Friday, May 24th.

10 a. m.—Grand parade of friendly and trades union societies with floats, manufacturers' and merchants' floats, float of Queen of May by school children, with the oldest school in the city.

1 p. m.—Regatta at Gorge.

1 p. m.—Illumination of Government street, James Bay bridge, Bellevue street, as far as the city hall, and the city hall.

Afternoon—Sports, consisting of baseball, lacrosse, cricket, athletic sports at the Hill, yacht races, rifle match.

Evening—Two band concerts in the principal streets, with a procession of illuminated floats and decorated floats, bicycles, carts and all vehicles, prizes to be given for the best decorated vehicle.

In regard to the proposed review and sham fight at Beacon Hill, two lieutenants of H. M. S. Amphion, who were in attendance at the review, had been appointed to deal with the question had been reported. The city had provided good food for the review, and the review had been a success. The review had been a success. The review had been a success.

It was finally decided to request the mayor to communicate with the admiral by telegraph, asking his sanction for the proposed review.

H. Cuthbert stated in the first part of the evening that he and his colleagues had interviewed the principal merchants of the city and all had signified their intention of assisting in the celebration, more especially in the parade. He suggested that the school children could participate, be held in connection with the parade. This suggestion was discussed later in the evening, and it was finally decided to hold a May pole dance be held at Beacon Hill park on Saturday afternoon, and that a May Queen be elected by votes. This could be done by charging so much a ticket.

Major Williams suggested that yacht racing be among the sports encouraged. The races would be quite an event, as the yachts were expected from the South.

W. P. Winsby suggested that the military authorities be requested to arrange an assault by water on an imaginary fort at Esquimalt Point. This event, he suggested, could take place on Saturday evening, and could be made with colored lights, rockets, blank cartridge, etc., and altogether would be quite an attraction.

This suggestion was lost in favor of a parade of decorated vehicles on Saturday evening.

A suggestion was made that prizes be offered for the best display of flowers. The proposer said that he had noticed an absence of flowers in all our celebrations, and as about the 24th of May nature would be smiling, he thought that prizes should be offered for the best display of flowers.

T. Burns also advised that a prize be offered for the prettiest baby on Government street on Saturday afternoon. When asked who should be judged, Mr. Burns kindly volunteered to act in that capacity. His suggestion was, however, lost, as it was pointed out that some dissatisfaction might be felt over the decision.

It was then moved, seconded and passed that the committee appoint sub-committees. The finance committee was appointed as follows: Mayor Hayward and all aldermen, Chief Deasy, Chief Langley, H. Shepherd, H. Morton, W. J. Dowler, Major Williams, R. L. Drury, R. H. Swinton, Senator Templeman, W. Dalby, H. D. Heincken, M. P. P., A. J. Dallin, Capt. Warren, A. G. McCandless, Percy Brown, J. H. Lawson, J. W. H. Price, Capt. Gaudin, Capt. Boyd, D. Burns, W. J. Jenkins, Capt. Walbran, officer of the B. E. Todd.

Major Williams then moved the following resolution which was carried unanimously: "That sub-committees have power to add to their number and that they also be given power to strike off members who do not attend the first two meetings of the committee."

It was also decided that E. C. Smith, assistant city treasurer, be requested to act as treasurer, and that W. W. Northcott, city assessor, be asked to act as purchasing agent for the committee.

The procession committee was appointed as follows: Mayor Hayward and all aldermen, Chief Deasy, Chief Langley, H. Shepherd, H. Morton, W. J. Dowler, Major Williams, R. L. Drury, R. H. Swinton, Senator Templeman, W. Dalby, H. D. Heincken, M. P. P., A. J. Dallin, Capt. Warren, A. G. McCandless, Percy Brown, J. H. Lawson, J. W. H. Price, Capt. Gaudin, Capt. Boyd, D. Burns, W. J. Jenkins, Capt. Walbran, officer of the B. E. Todd.

The following committee for sports was appointed: W. H. Langley, H. Morton, B. Schwengers, W. Ditchburn, S. Watson, Chief Deasy, Major Williams.

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Programme Prepared

General Committee Drafted a List of Attractions at Last Night's Meeting.

They Will Submit Report to the Public—Gathering This Evening.

A meeting of the general celebration committee was held last evening in the police court department, city hall. Anton Henderson, in the absence of Mayor Hayward, presiding. His Worship was later appointed chairman and Anton Henderson vice-chairman.

The position of secretary also had to be filled, as B. Boggs had signified his disinclination to act this year. On motion of Seymour H. O'Dell, H. Cuthbert was appointed permanent secretary.

The committee then proceeded to transact the business of the evening, which was, as pointed out by the chairman, to draft a programme for the 24th of May celebration. During the discussion the committee considered and approved the programme that the council had voted the usual \$1,000 toward the celebration.

The programme drafted and which will be submitted to the public meeting tonight is as follows:

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H. O'Dell, W. Moreby, H. L. Salmon, B. Temple, W. H. Wheeler, S. Laurie and T. Burns.

The regatta, printing, band and illumination and decoration committees were appointed as follows:

Regatta—Admiral Bickford and officers of army and navy, Capt. Gaudin, Capt. Cox, Capt. Warren, Capt. Clark, Chief Cooper, Ald. Stewart, Ald. Yates, officers of J. B. A. A. and A. J. Dallin.

Printing and Band—O. H. Lugin, Robert Dunn, N. Shakespear, E. A. Lewis, Ald. Stewart, Ald. Williams, Geo. Jay, Messrs. Boggs, Greenwood, Cullin and Ditchburn.

Illuminations and Decorations—Hon. J. H. Turner, H. D. Heincken, Richard Hall, A. J. Dallin, Wm. Dalby, Thos. Harman, Dr. Milne, George Jeeves, Capt. Gaudin, Capt. Clark, George Snider, C. S. Baxter, Harry Salmon, R. W. H. Price, E. B. Martin, Chief Deasy, Thos. Watson and George Wilby.

The committee then adjourned. A public meeting will be held this evening to receive the committee reports.

Improved Sewerage

A Deputation From Rockland Avenue and Vicinity