PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Sixth Parliament.

FIFTY-FIFTH DAY.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1891.

The Speaker took the chair at two o'clock. After prayer by R't Rev. Bishop Cridge.

PROTECTION OF CATTLE.

On the order to receive the report of the committee of the House on the Cattle Bill, several slight amendments were made, and the bill was left for further consideration.

The bill to amend the British Columbia Railway Act was read a third time and passed.

THE CONSTITUTION ACT.

The House went into committee on the bill to amend the Constitution Act, so as to increase the indemnity of members to $600, and to further define the electoral districts of Victoria City, Victoria district and Esquimalt. The bill was reported complete with amendments.

The House went into committee on the Provincial Voters' Bill, Mr. Kellie in the chair. The bill was read a third time and passed.

The House again went into committee on the Municipal Bill, Mr. Hall in the chair. A number of the proposed amendments to the act were discussed at considerable length and in detail, and at 5.30,

MR. KITCHEN moved that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

HON. MR. ROBSON said that it was expected that the House would sit every night this week.

The House rose.

EVENING SESSION.

The House met after recess at 8 o'clock.

MR. BROWN presented the report of the special committee in connection with the correspondence between the Government and the Bishop of Westminster. The report was again referred back to the committee for exceeding the lines of the resolution.

The House went into committee on the Municipal Act, Mr. Booth in the chair.

Amendments were put in to provide for the dyking or draining of land on the local improvement plan, the land to be improved being assessed for the cost of it or for the payment of principal and interest of bonds issued to make such improvements.

The committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments. The House adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

FIFTY-SIXTH DAY.

The speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock. After prayers by Rt. Rev. Bishop Cridge.

THE SALE OF LIQUORS.

HON. MR. ROBSON introduced a bill respecting the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors.

THE GRAVING DOCK CONTRACTS.

HON. MR. DAVIE moved that the report of the Select Committee appointed to enquire into the circumstances under which local partners were admitted by F. B. McNamee & Co., in the contract for the construction of the Graving Dock, what rate of interest (if any) was to be allowed on the $10,000 deposit as security for the contract, and the financial position of matters at the present time, be adopted. The Attorney-General briefly reviewed the facts of the case as adduced in the report of the evidence taken by the Special Committee.

In reply to Hon. Mr. Beaven

HON. MR. DAVIE said that there was no material difference between the corrected evidence of Mr. Justice Walkem and that which had been at first printed and circulated. The shorthand writer's notes as revised would be printed in the sessional papers in place of the unrevised ones.

The report was adopted.

THE PROVINCIAL MUSEUM.

MR. KELLIE said that whoever happened to see the animals in the Provincial Museum rounded up and corralled as if to be branded, would at once see how inadequate the accommodations of the museum were for all the displays that British Columbia might make. He spoke of the excellence of the exhibits made by this province and some of the adjoining States on a number of occasions, and begged that the Government would take steps to improve the facilities and accommodations provided, as a good display of our minerals could not fail to have an excellent effect in inducing capitalists to invest here. He moved: "Whereas the present accommodation in the Provincial Museum for the display of specimens of ores and other exhibits is very inadequate; And whereas the display of such ores in a manner worthy of the importance of the subject would be of the greatest assistance in bringing under the notice of capitalists visiting this province the greatness and importance of our mineral wealth; And whereas before an adequate display could be made it would be necessary, first to collect from every mining district the best available specimens of ores, and next to materially enlarge the space devoted to this purpose in the museum; Now therefore be it resolved, that a respectful address be presented to his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council praying him to take such steps as he shall think expedient for effectually carrying out the collecting and exhibiting of such specimens."

The motion was carried.

THE DE COURCEY ISLANDS.

MR. MCKENZIE moved for copies of all correspondence and other documents relating to the application of Thomas L. Davis, of Nanaimo, to prospect, under the "Coal Prospecting Act, 1883," a portion of the DeCourcey group of islands, and Tree island, and to purchase the same. Carried.

THE CONSTITUTION BILL.

On motion of the HON. MR. DAVIE the House went into committee on the Constitution Bill, which was read a third time and passed.

THE JURORS' BILL.

HON. MR. DAVIE, in moving the adoption of the report of committee of the House on the Jurors Bill, drew the distinction between the respective rights and functions of the Dominion and Provincial authorities in regard to matters of criminal procedure. As concerned some matters, both the Dominion and Provincial Parliaments were legislating; but their respective jurisdictions, save in excepted cases being absolute, it was therefore, in order to prevent any conflict, that he proposed to reenact the Dominion legislation with respect to juries. He substituted a number of amendments.

HON. MR. BEAVEN said he had only seen these amendments last night, and had only had time to casually glance at them. From what he could gather their object was to provide for a case which had been before the supreme court, and for aught he knew might be there now, he meant that of the Wellington miners.

HON. MR. DAVIE said that such was not the intention. Indeed, he did not think the bill would apply. In fact, it could not, as laws had not an *ex post facto* operation, the miners having been tried under the law which was in existence when their cases came up.

COAL MINES REGULATION.

MR. CROFT moved the second reading of the bill to repeal "The Coal Mines Regulation Amendment Act," which was last year passed to prevent the employment of Chinese under ground. He briefly reviewed recent debates on this subject, contending that there had been nothing developed to show that the Chinese were a dangerous element underground, and, therefore, there was no reason why they should be excluded.

HON. MR. DAVIE contended that the agitation against the employment of Chinese in the mines had not been because they were a dangerous element, but in order to strengthen the hands of a number of men who were entitled to no sympathy whatever. They were in fact, no friends of the province or its interests, but at the time of the Wellington strike had, in addition to their other actions, gone to San Francisco with the avowed intention of injuring a leading industry of the province and boycotting our coal which had not been produced by union miners. This bill had, he repeated, been brought in order to benefit men who, in default of carrying out their own schemes, would bankrupt any or all of our interests. He reviewed his own course last session in connection with this bill, which it was now proposed to repeal, and at the risk of it being said that he had stultified himself, he felt bound to vote in a different sense from what he had formerly done. There had been only one accident which, with any amount of success, had been placed upon the shoulders of the Chinamen, but even that had not been done to his (Mr. Davie's) satisfaction. There were, it must be remembered, other ignorant people who were equally as dangerous as the Chinamen. There were not only ignorant whites, but there were Indians allowed in the mines, who could not talk English or even Chinook. There were employed in mines in other countries Hindoos, Hottentots and Japs, who could not talk English, who had not been found to be so very objectionable or dangerous. The fact was that this agitation was against a certain class of people whom it was wished to keep out of the mines for political and other reasons. To be consistent, the agitators should keep out of the mines all people who could not talk English. Here and there, in case of an accident, a Chinaman was found to blame, but he had been astonished at the statistics which had been shown by the member for Lillooet. He had shown that there had really been a greater percentage of accidents among the whites than among the Chinese. Referring to the Sessional papers of 1879 and the report of the Inspector of Mines, he said, he found three cases of accident, one among white men and two among the Chinese, neither of which was of the character mentioned by the member for Nanaimo. One of these men had been the victim of an accident which he could not have foreseen, and the other was the result of the dastardly act of some other man. So far as his research had gone, he had been unable to discover a single case in which the Chinamen were responsible. Most of the accidents were the result of the carelessness of good miners, who were so skilled and so self-confident that they thought they could do what other men could not do. Frequently experienced miners would take chances which men of less experience would not. There was not a Chinaman who did not understand the dangers of mining, and therefore they would not be likely to cause accidents. He had noticed, last night, that a death had been caused in one of the mines as the result of a premature explosion. These would occur, no matter who were in the mines. One was continually being shocked by reading the accounts of disasters in coal mines in connection with which there could be no suggestion of a Chinaman. With the information now before him he had no hesitation in rescinding his vote of last year, and he should be a coward did he not vote for the second reading.

MR. FORSTER explained the risks which miners had to run, saying that the speech of the Attorney-General showed that however much he might know about law he knew nothing about mining. He proceeded to read the official record of the accident in 1879, as contained in the report of the Inspector of Mines in 1880, which, as well as the Coroner's jury, showed that a Chinaman was the person who was responsible. He spoke of the strictness of the mining law in Great Britain, which excluded ignorant men and women and children from the mines. Those who desired to make the mines safe had to begin somewhere, and knew no stopping place until they had made the mines as safe as it was possible for them to be. There had been very few cases of accident here since the bill of last year had been passed. The evidence was quite as conclusive this year as it was last. The longer mines were worked the more dangerous hey became, as the gas accumulated more readily and in greater volume. He hoped the members would consider the claims of the miners who, if they did not need a bill similar to the one passed last year, would not have asked for it. It was the practice in matters of legislation to consider the views and feelings of those most interested, and they were the people who spoke and had a right to be heard. This was not a matter of dollars and cents, but it was one of lives. He held his present views because of his painful experience that the Chinese were unsafe. If the Chinese were not excluded there would be more explosions. Let members pause before it was too late.

HON. MR. ROBSON said there was no more reason to connect the Chinese with the explosion which had been referred to than to associate them with the man in the moon. The most experienced miner was frequently the most to blame, as he took the most risks. There was only one mine in the province where Chinese were employed. The proprietors of the other mines had voluntarily withdrawn them, and had no intention of ever again employing them. But though this was the case, they were not going to allow the union miners to close their mines. At Comox the Chinese were only employed because the seam was too thin for white men to undertake to mine it. Surely men who banded themselves as the miners had done in antagonism to the best interests of the country could not expect that they would be allowed to paralyze its most important industries. It had not been found possible, and, indeed, was not safe to exclude Chinamen from the large industries of the country for capital would not come in unless it were guaranteed that it would not be interfered with, as had been the experience at Wellington.

The allegation that the presence of the Chinese in mines was dangerous had been proved not to be tenable, and mining must therefore be placed on the same footing as other industries. Labor must be free, and that was the only way in which there could be success. If white labor refused to follow an industry, was it to be supposed that employers had not the right to secure the next best help they could get? The experience of the Union Mine had, he had previously said, illustrated the fact that the Chinese were no more dangerous than other people. Indeed, the evidence showed the reverse: He had been informed when the legislation of last session was brought in that there would be a strike. That had been a true prophecy. Since last session it had been demonstrated that the conditions, in view of which the Chinese Bill of last session had been passed, did not exist. The commercial industries must not be allowed to be boycotted and paralyzed as the coal interest had been. It would tell on every one, and the miners would be more injured than anyone else. He believed it to be a mistaken kindness, an act of cruelty, to afford to the miners facilities to go out on strike when there was no necessity for it. There had been no reason for the Wellington strike, except that the mine owners would not recognize the Union and would not allow them to regulate the business of the mine. The men, he was free to say, had a perfect right to strike, but they had no right to attempt to paralyze industry. The bill of last session offered an inducement to strike. Let the members look at the mining community at Wellington. Many of them were living on the contributions of miners and others. They had gone out on strike because their employers would not allow them to arrogate to themselves the right to conduct their business. There was not a man who would not resent such an attempt as this. The other day when debating the Sabbath Observance Bill, the member for Nanaimo had spoken with force as to the rights of the subject. He (Mr. Robson) had no hesitation in saying that for the Miners' Union to attempt to trench on the rights of others—its members even going down to the wharves and interfering with the sailors, because the men who had mined the coal on board were not unionists—was outrageous, and for representatives of that union to talk in the way that the member for Nanaimo had done, was a piece of perfect hypocrisy and abominable nonsense.

MR. SWORD said he was not prepared for any hasty legislation of this kind. He therefore moved, seconded by Mr. Semlin, that the bill be not read now but be read this day six months.

MR. SEMLIN denied that the members had, last year, been taken unawares and had voted ignorantly in favor of Mr. Haslam's bill, which it was now proposed to repeal. The members for Nanaimo had advocated that measure as necessary to protect human life. The subject was well understood, and had been for years. It would be very singular if this House which, for humanity sake, had passed the existing law, should now repeal it because there was a strike at Wellington. The mines were just as risky now as they were then, and, on this account, the law must be made as perfect as possible.

THE SPEAKER ruled that Mr. Semlin ought not, on the motion of the six months' hoist, to enter so largely into the merits of the bill as he was doing.

MR. BROWN said that much as the subject had been debated he did not think that members were possessed of sufficient information as to the working of Chinamen underground to act upon this matter now. It would be dangerous, and it was therefore right and proper that there should be further delay. The point to be considered was—Is the presence of Chinamen in mines a source of danger? From all the information he had, he concluded that the Chinaman was a source of danger. He (Mr. Brown) had no uncertainty about this, he believed the Act on the statute book should be amended and made workable; but he knew there were members who were uncertain how to act. They desired to be guided by the evidence, as he believed every member of the House did. But so far the evidence was not sufficient to enable them to give an intelligent vote. He dwelt upon the conflict of evidence that existed, and continued that the question before the House was the lives of men which might be seriously imperilled were the bill of the member for Cowichan read a second time now and existing safeguards were removed.

MR. COTTON felt that time must be taken to consider this Bill. On the debate on the sister Bill the Attorney-General had pleaded for time in order to study the Bill and the evidence of the Commission. The Premier had taken a similar position, and according to the arguments of those two members of the Government he felt bound to object to voting hastily. This Bill was never heard of till Saturday last and every member would be justified in this case in following the advice which had been given by members of the Government.

DR. MILNE and MR. KEITH having spoken strongly in favor of the six months hoist.

HON. MR. DAVIE briefly but sharply replied to the sophistry and sarcasm of the member for Vancouver, after which a vote was taken, the six months hoist being voted down by 15 to 13.

Nays—Semlin, McKenzie, Sword, Kitchen, Cotton, Kellie, Milne, Beaven, Brown Forster, Keith, Stoddart, Booth—13.

Ayes—Smith, Robson, Davie, Vernon, Eberts, Hall, Nason, Pooley, Turner, Martin, Croft, Hunter, Rogers, Fletcher, Baker—15.

MR. SEMLIN resumed the debate, and continued it for some time, holding that there was every reason why the present law should be retained and made more perfect.

HON. MR. POOLEY moved the previous question, which was carried on a vote of 18 to 10.

The bill was read a second time on the same vote as was given on the six months' hoist.

EVENING SESSION.

The House met at 8 o'clock, in committee on the Suitor's bill. The bill provided chiefly that money paid into court could be paid out on the certificate of the Supreme Court registrar instead of on an order of the court or judge, as at present.

The Attorney-General and Hon. Mr. Pooley opposed the bill.

The committee rose without reporting.

The House then went into committee on the bill to incorporate benevolent and other societies, Mr. Sword in the chair.

The committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments.

In committee on the act to amend the Game Act, Mr. Hunter in the chair. The bill allows the export of heads, horns or skins of such animals—named in 10th section of the Act—as shall have been legally killed by a license holder under the Game Act.

The bill was reported without amendment

Report adopted, and bill read a third time and passed.

In committee, on the B. C. Dyking and Improvement Co. Bill, Mr. Cotton in the chair.

HON. MR. VERNON raised a point of order that the bill could not be brought in as a private one as it encroached on the prerogative of the Crown.

The committee rose and reported to the Speaker for his decision.

The House then went into committee on the Industrial Societies Bill. Mr. Semlin in the chair.

The committee rose and reported the bill complete with amendments.

The House adjourned at midnight.

FIFTY-SECOND DAY.

The Speaker took the chair at two o'clock. After prayers by Rev. Mr Dobbs—

COMPANIES INCORPORATION BILL.

MR. KELLIE, in moving the second reading of the Companies Incorporation Bill, said the object was to make it as easy for a railroad company to incorporate as for any other kind of an association, and also to save the time of the House prolonged discussions. His proposal would further tend to discourage wild cat schemes.

HON. MR. ROBSON said it would be well for the bill to remain over for twelve months, in order that the idea might be considered and discussed by the public. The proposal was too large a one to be carefully considered during the last days of the session.

MR. KELLIE withdrew the bill on the understanding that it would be brought up early next session.

The report of Committee on the Graveyard Act was adopted and the bill was read a third time and passed.

NICOLA, KAMLOOPS AND SIMILKAMEEN ROAD.

The House went into committee on the Nicola, Kamloops and Similkameen Railroad Bill, Mr. McKenzie in the chair.

MR. MARTIN declared that the object of the bill was to levy blackmail on the Nicola Valley Railroad Co., and did on bind this company to build any road except over the section of country traversed by the Nicola Valley road. He moved in amendment that section 3 be struck out and the following inserted: "The said Railway company, their agents and servants, shall have full power and authority to survey, lay out, construct, complete, lease, purchase and operate a single or double line of railway, of a gauge of four feet eight and one-half inches, from a point at or near the western extremity of Nicola Lake, where the terminus of the Nicola Valley Railway Company shall be located; thence to the town of Princeton, and thence by way of Similkameen River as far as may be deemed advisable in a southerly direction to Osoyoos Lake; also from a point near the junction of the company's railway with the Nicola Valley Railway Company's terminus at Nicola, in a northerly direction past Nicola and Stump Lake to the South Thompson River, at some point to the eastward of Kamloops."

MR. SWORD was opposed to the amendment. He was not prepared to stand by the promises of any railway men, and thought both bills should be allowed to pass, in which event the company that was best prepared would be in a position to build the road.

MR. CROFT held that the Nicola, Kamloops & Similkameen railway was no more likely to be built than was the Nicola Valley line. Both roads depended for success on the discovery of coal, and there was no necessity for incorporating two companies.

MESSRS. HALL and BOOTH supported the present bill.

MR. SEMLIN moved that the said amendment be amended by adding thereto the following words:—"and thence to the town of Kamloops; and also full power and authority to construct, complete, lease, purchase, and operate a railway from a point at or near Spence's Bridge to a point at or near the western extremity of Nicola Lake: Provided that the power hereby conferred on the company to build that portion of their line lying between Spence's Bridge and the junction of the Coldwater with the Nicola river shall not be exercised until three years after the passage of this Act, unless in the meanwhile the Nicola Valley Railway company elect not to proceed with the construction of their railway." He took the ground that opposition was the life of trade and that the more railway accommodations there was provided the better. He emphatically denied that the scheme was of a blackmailing character, most of the men connected with it being of the highest standing. By granting several charters the greater was the presumption that a road would be built. The people whose interests were affected by these companies would not in such event be at the mercy of one company, which was possessed of exclusive powers.

COL. BAKER held that all possible railway facilities should be afforded, but that every provision be taken against duplicating lines or of making it possible for one road to blackmail another. This company had an alternative route, which they might adopt, but he objected to their being allowed to build—which appeared to be their sole intention—the fifty miles of road covered in the charter of the other company. It was not possible for the Nicola Valley road to blackmail the Nicola, Kamloops and Similkameen R.R., but it was possible for the latter to blackmail the former.

HON. MR. ROBSON said that, looking at the present scheme in a careful manner, it appeared like a wildcat. While the Nicola Valley Railway company had come in a straightforward manner and had stated that the construction of the road would materially depend upon the satisfactory development of the coal measures, and had asked for time during which to ascertain their extent, the promoters of this road were loud in their professions that there were no conditions of a similar kind on their part, it could not but be manifest that both roads were depending upon those coal beds. It had been pointed out by the junior member for Yale that among those interested in the Nicola, Kamloops & Similkameen R.R. were Mr. Hamilton Merritt and Mr. Sandford Fleming. Now Mr. Merritt was well known to be very much interested in wild cat ventures, while instead of it being Mr. Sanford Fleming who was concerned it was a son of his, the Boy Fleming. Besides it very often happened that prominent people, in a good natured way, lent to enterprises the use of their names. These names were not always a guarantee of the soundness of any enterprise. He would repeat that neither enterprise would be likely to be carried out unless there were developments of coal or something else. It was true, as the junior member for Yale had said, that generally speaking opposition was the life of trade, that was in the event of the competitors having ample capital. But would anyone say that either of these companies had the necessary financial resources? Both of them would be obliged to go upon the money market for funds. Company No. 1 would go upon the market, and be followed by No. 2. At once capital would take alarm, "here are two purchases, both almost identical, we won't touch either. There is something wrong in the beginning," they would say, or "it has a most enthusiastic and reckless competitor." The result would be that with one charter hanging over the other, neither charter would be operated. This company has an alternative route, which, if it were not taken, both companies would be injured. It only proposed, it would seem to build the fifty miles that were provided for by the other company. If No. 2 would put up a substantial guarantee that it would construct and operate its road within time, it would be all very well; but it would give no guarantee beyond the fifty miles already provided for. It would, he considered, be an act of injustice to give a second charter under conditions like these.

MR. SWORD denied that it was possible to substantiate the charge of blackmailing. He pointed out that the present company had equally as much at stake as the other one, and therefore they ought to have the fair treatment which they sought.

MR. MARTIN said that Mr. Sword knew nothing of the enterprise which he was advocating. In fact, some one had been stuffing him. Indeed, the petition for the bill, and the bill itself, had been handed from one member to another, and he congratulated the member, who was responsible for the bill, on the manner in which he was sticking to it. Hon. gentlemen had said that there were large coal lands to be reached, but it was well that members should know that the coal lands, belonging to one of the gentlemen who was promoting this company, had been handed to the other He would not object to this company if it adopted its alternative route, but he was not prepared to sanction the present proposal.

HON. MR. DAVIE said that the policy of the Ottawa parliament was to prevent the parallelling of lines, and inasmuch as this was a parallel road, he should object to the passage of the bill.

HON. MR. VERNON opposed the bill, because it would naturally prejudice the other company and be productive of no good.

After further discussion, Section 3 was was struck out and Mr. Martin's amendment was substituted for it.

The bill finally passed committee and was ordered to be reported with amendments.

On the order to go into committee on the

WESTMINSTER ENABLING BILL,

MR. MARTIN drew attention to the ruling of Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, that this could not be gone on with as a private bill, but that it might be proceeded with as "a hybrid," the procedure in connection with which, as laid done by the authorities, had not been complied with. He submitted the point for the Speaker's decision.

MR. SPEAKER said he had considered this matter fully, and had no intention of amending or revising his decision.

HON. MR. DAVIE reviewed the history of procedure in connection with this bill, which was strenuously opposed by many persons whose interests would be vitally affected by it. He had found out, on inquiry, that he had been, unwittingly, the instrument of bringing in a bill that seriously prejudiced private rights. He now found that this same bill, without alteration, had been brought out by another member. The Private Bills committee had recommended that the bill be altered and amended, so as to provide against illegal outlay in the future, and to prevent the corporation carrying on electric lighting, but this order had not been complied with. He entirely disowned the bill which was now before the House, subject to all the objections made by the Private Bills committe.

MR. BOOTH said the bill was down in his name, and he would take charge of it.

HON. MR. DAVIE said the bill must be reconstructed in the way recommended by committee. He had, he must say, narrowly escaped being the means of doing an injustic to certain parties. He had been assured that everything was all right, and on that assurance he had taken charge of the measure, which any other member of the House would have done under the circumstances.

MR. BROWN denied *in toto* every one of the statements of the Attorney-General. The bill did not interfere with private rights. There was less than a quarter of a million dollars worth of property affected by it, and the reason of the opposition to the bill was that certain private parties wished to do the lighting which the people had decided the city should do. He explained that the expenditures that were to be confirmed were sanctioned by nine-tenths of the ratepayers. He did not know how the name of the member for the Islands had been placed on the bill, but presumed that the Attorney-General had put it there. He referred to the recommendations suggested by the Private Bills Committee. They were very simple and it had been proposed to insert them in committee. He had been assured, at Westminster, that those who opposed the bill would be satisfied with the bill, if the amendments suggested by the Private Bills Committee were inserted. He mentioned the right of the corporation of New Westminster to do private lighting, it being a large amount of power, ($500 or $600 a month), doing nothing. There were no private rights infringed upon. Indeed, an agreement had been entered into with the Gas Company, to whom $600 had been paid. Mr. Brown proceeded to read a large amount of correspondence which had taken place on the subject, also resolutions showing that the council and the citizens favored the idea of the corporation having their own water and lighting. As to the matter of so called illegal contracts Mr. Corbould, the city attorney, had distinctly declared that the corporation did not desire to be whitewashed, all that was desired was to have the power to take the sense of the citizens upon the subject. He went on to criticize the objectors to the Bill, holding that inasmuch as the right to light towns had been given to other municipalities they could not in justice be denied to the city of New Westminster. The Bill, as it had been approved in principle by this House, was again before it, and he, as he had said, was awaiting the opportunity to introduce the amendments recommended by the Private Bills Committee.

HON. MR. BEAVEN could not understand how this Bill had again found its way upon the Orders of the House. The whole of the proceedings had, in his opinion, been irregular. This Bill was the identical one which had been considered by the Private Bills Committee.

MR. HUNTER having asked a number of questions as to the procedure in connection with this Bill and its regularity.

HON. MR. POOLEY suggested that the member for New Westminster should place his proposed amendments on the order paper, after which the Bill might come up for further consideration.

DR. MILNE cited the agreement entered into between the City and the Gas company, saying that the latter had not surrendered all its rights for the sum of $600, and holding that the corporation were trying in every way to prejudice its interests. They had, with this object in view, entered into expenditures of over $100,000, without obtaining the sanction of the people. The object of this Bill was to whitewash the corporation, of which material there was not sufficient in that city. There was an injunction against the city, on account of the ferry business, and it was but proper that all these matters should be brought to light. He concluded by referring to the way in which the parentage of this Bill had been disclaimed, saying that it was a bastard Bill and should be treated as such.

MR. BOOTH said he did not know how his name had been connected with the Bill, but he was prepared to support it.

HON. MR. DAVIE said the course proposed by the President of the Council was the only one that could be adopted. The House was not in a position to go into committee. The Municipality Act did not apply to New Westminster. They were governed by their own Act, which provided that while the corporation might supply gas, electric lighting, &c., they were not to prejudice vested rights.

MR. MARTIN contended that the action of the private bills committee had been correct. That committee had recommended certain amendments which aught to have been introduced. Before that report had been made a great amount of evidence had been taken. He was inclined to think that it was no use giving charters and powers to corporations if they undertook to violate their provisions and then come here for indemnification.

MR. HUNTER contended that before the bill could be proceeded with the evidence which had been taken before the private bills committee should be printed for the use of the House. He drew attention to certain inaccuracies in the evidence taken before the committee and said he should be happy to support the bill.

MR. BROWN said he would be prepared to accept the suggestion of the President of the Council.

MR. EBERTS did not think the House would be prepared to have such a bill passed as the present one. Where were the amendments recommended?

HON. MR. BEAVEN pointed out the irregularity which had characterized everything in connection with this bill which asked favors which he was sure this House would not grant.

On motion the order for the House to go into committee on the Westminster Enabling bill was deferred to Friday.

The House rose.

EVENING SESSION.

The House went into committee on the Toad Mountain and Nelson Tramway Company's Bill, Mr. Stoddart in the chair.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

The Hot Springs and Goat River Tramway Co.'s Bill was read a third time and passed.

The following bills were reported and fixed for a third reading, next sitting, after Hon. Mr. Beaven's Anti-Chinese clauses had been voted down, viz.: Okanagon Land and Development Bill; Liverpool and Canoe Pass Railway Bill; Vancouver and Lulu Island Railway Bill; Vancouver and Lulu Island Improvement Bill; Vancouver, Northern and Alaska Railway Bill.

MR. KELLIE remarked that the last bill provided for a railway to run to Alaska in United States territory, while the promoter of this bill (Mr. Cotton) had objected to the Kootenay Railway Bill for a similar reason.

DISCHARGED.

The following orders were discharged.

Adjourned debate on Mr. Sword's motion re granting right of eminent domain to railway companies.

Adjourned debate on Mr. Martin's motion relative to stock killed on the C. P. R.

The following bills took their second reading.

Legal Profession's Bill, (Hon. Mr. Davie), to enable the Benchers of Westminster to provide a library and to provide penalties for those who did not return the books.

County Courts' Bill, (Hon. Mr. Davie), to give county court Judges jurisdiction outside of their own districts.

SUNDAY BILL.

The House went into committee on Mr. Robson's Sunday Bill, which was the subject of a long debate, there being in its course a considerable display of banter Indeed, the exceptions originally provided were made to apply to cattle dealers and lumber-men, it being difficult to see to what length members would have proceeded in this direction had not Hon. Mr. Turner moved that the committee rise, to which the Premier agreed.

The bill is thus killed. It is understood that the intention had been to render every section inoperative except that repealing the Sunday law which is now in force on the mainland.

The second reading of Mr. Brown's Provincial Voters' Bill, to give the franchise to women, was lost on division of 10 for to 17 against.

The House went into committee on the Vancouver Amendment Bill, rose and reported the bill with amendments.

HON. MR. ROBSON announced that prorogation would probably take place on Monday or Tuesday.

The House adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

FIGHTING FOR PRINCIPLE.

Hundreds of Dollars Spent in Litigation Over a Dollar-and-a-Half Pig.

Two or three lawyers were talking of old lawsuits the other day, when one of the oldest members of the Indianapolis bar remarked to a Journal reporter: "I remember the Perry township pig case that took up a good part of one term of court, having come up through a justice's office. The case was tried, I believe, by Governor Wallace, father of our postmaster, and there were at least two firms of lawyers on each side. Sims Colley and Thomas Walpole were in the case, and, so far as Mr. Colley was concerned, he was then in the full power of his renown. The case gave him full opportunity for the display of his picturesque genius, and the drolleries he infused into it long furnished matter of laughter for the bar. Mr. Colley, however, no matter how absurdly droll he might become, never lost sight of the best interests of his client, and certainly never lost sight of his own in the shape of as fat a fee as it was possible to obtain.

"The question was about the identity of a shote," continued the lawyer. "The witnesses on one side swore it was a pig in a barnyard, and had never been out until it had been put into a pen, from which it was taken to be slaughtered. The witnesses on the other side swore that they had known it from the time it was a suckling. But the great point was the proof of an earmark. One claimant, sustained by one set of witnesses, said he marked an ear of the shote with his pocket-knife, and the cut was explained at great length to the jury. The other claimant said the mark on the ear of his shote was torn by the teeth of a dog. It was at this stage of the testimony that a sensational feature was introduced. One witness, having brought his testimony to an exciting point, added a climax by pulling from his pocket a pickled pig's ear, which he declared to be the ear of the shote in question. This created a great uproar in the court-room, as the effect of this pictorial testimony upon the jury could not be measured. The witness with the ear was, however, measurably discredited, and the case went on. Medical experts were called in to testify as to what the difference in appearance would be between a shote's ear cut with a knife and one torn by the teeth of a dog. The experts did not agree and the jury disagreed, and another trial was held, the second jury disagreeing as the first had done. Charges of perjury were made on each side and a number of assault and battery cases grew out of it. The costs of litigation were between four hundred and five hundred dollars on each side."

"What was the shote worth?"

"About one dollar and fifty cents, but the litigants were fighting for principle."

BUILDING A LIBRARY.

No Royal Road to One Which Will Be of Real Service.

As there is no royal road to learning, so there is no royal road to that outward and visible sign of it which consists in shelves well filled with books, says a writer in Kate Field's Washington. The man who wants a library can not get it ready made. He may, it is true, buy a collection of books fairly well fitted to the average mind, but it will be about as satisfactory as the ready-made coat fitted to the average body. It will fail to meet his individual eccentricities.

Nor can the ideal library be gathered in a hurry. Nothing is more helpful to the tone and quality of a library than such a moderate degree of poverty as will limit purchases at first to the absolutely essential. In the buying of books, as in the buying of pictures, real discrimination comes only through actual experience, and it is very unfortunate to have too many bought at a low grade of development; but, on the other hand, no man should wait to begin his library until his taste is fully formed, or it will lack many books which he would gladly have there, but which would not run the gauntlet of his mature judgment.

A very common error in buying books is to start with cheap editions under the erroneous impression that later on they may be replaced by good ones. Unfortunately, the mind of the book lover will not assent to this plan, however strong his will. The book he takes up to read is invariably the old and shabby one, and the other becomes only a splendid bit of decoration, to please the eye of the visitor. Your pet literature always tastes best from the page on which you originally read it; so, when you buy a book of which you are likely to become fond, it should be in a good enough form to keep. At least, paper and print should be so respectable that a new binding will be all the change necessary. With the habitual student the sense of location is very highly developed. In his own library he finds things by their position on the page, and can turn at once to any given passage in a familiar author. But put him in a room full of strange editions, and this laboriously acquired sixth sense becomes utterly useless.

The taste for fine bindings is a liking apart from the love of books for what they contain, but it is by no means an ignoble tendency, and adds vastly to the æsthetic effect of a well-chosen library. The housing and care of books, too, is a subject not beneath the notice of even the profoundest student.

INEXPENSIVE BENEVOLENCE.

The Method a Wise Man Used with Circulators of Subscription Papers.

I was in the office of a Chicago real-estate and loan agent the other day, says a writer in the New York Sun, and had scarcely got seated when a woman was admitted, and asked him for a subscription to some charity.

"With the greatest of pleasure, ma'am," he replied, and producing a check-book he filled out a check for $10. She thanked him very sweetly as she withdrew, and it was only five minutes after when a man entered and asked for a contribution to some poor children's fund.

"Certainly—only too glad," replied the agent, and he wrote out another check for $10.

After we had been interrupted four times, and he had cheerfully written four checks I said to him:

"You certainly deserve the title of a philanthropist."

"Well, perhaps."

"But I notice that you ask no questions and take every thing for granted. Have you no fear of being swindled?"

"None whatever."

"Well, the people of Chicago must be an honest crowd."

"Oh, it isn't that, my dear sir. Let me—"

Here a lady entered and asked for a contribution to assist in giving a free excursion to a Sunday-school, and he wrote out a check for $15 and waved her out, and continued:

"Let me explain. All those checks are worthless, as they are drawn on a bank where I have no funds. I do it to save time. All these callers come prepared to argue and explain and contend, and each one of them would sit for half an hour. By giving these checks I secure a great reputation around the block as a philanthropist and a well-heeled man, and it costs me nothing. When—"

Here he paused to fill out a check for $20 for the establishment of a sailors' bethel, and then finished:

"When the checks are presented they are found to be worthless, and those holding them either get mad or see the joke. In either case they never return, nor do they give me away. Try it, my boy. Saves time, money and gab; and it won't be a month before you'll be satisfied that you are doing charity a better service than if you were handing out the cold cash."

Some of Both.

Medical scientists can not agree as to whether the man who commits suicide is insane or idiotic, says the Detroit Free Press, and there is a prospect of reaching a verdict which will end with "some of both." It is a fact that out of every fifty suicides only two or three can be accounted for by any reasonable excuses on the part of the living.

A Tough Squaw.

At the San Carlos agency an Apache bet a bottle of whisky that his wife could carry two hundred pounds of flour half a mile without resting. She was a light, slim woman, but she added fifteen pounds to the load and ten rods to the distance and won the whisky for her liege lord. It unnecessary to say that she got none of it.

Evaporation of the Nile.

A peculiar feature of the river Nile is that from its junction with the Atbora, for a distance of more than 1,500 miles to the sea, there are no affluents. This fact, together with the burning sand and the hot sun of the desert, causes the most of the stream to evaporate, leaving but a small body of water to flow into the sea.