Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1886.

TWO SCHEMES CONTRASTED.

One of the opposition press has recently raised a howl about the privileges conferred on the Dunsmuir (genuine) syndicate by the legislature, with respect to the conveyance of east coast lands. It has been further said that the conveyance carried with it the precious metals—gold and silver—contained in the belt; and the present government have been blamed for want of foresight in permitting so grave an "outrage" to be perpetrated. Now, suppose that in conveying the land the government really surrendered the rights of the crown to the precious metals, we have but to point to the Clements (bogus) Island railway act to show that the Walkem-Beaven government were guilty of the same want of foresight that their successors are charged with. The Clements act (page 72, statutes 1882):

"18. The government of British Columbia, upon satisfactory security having been given as aforesaid, and in consideration of the completion and perpetual and efficient operation of said railway by the company, shall set apart and reserve to the company one million nine hundred thousand acres (more or less) of public lands comprised within the area described by the following boundaries, viz:

On the south by a straight line drawn from the head of Saanich inlet to Muir creek, on the straits of Fuca; on the west by a straight line drawn from Muir creek, aforesaid, to Crown mountain; on the north by a straight line drawn from Crown mountain to Seymour Narrows, and on the east by the coast line of Vancouver island to the point of commencement; *and including all coal, coal oil, ores, stones, clay, marble, slate, mines, minerals, and substances whatsoever, thereupon, therein, and thereunder*, and the company shall thereupon be entitled to take immediate possession of the said lands, and use, occupy, work, and enjoy the same, and grant leases thereof, and enter into agreements for the sale thereof, subject to the completion of the company's title to the said lands in manner hereinafter provided. Upon the completion of the said railway in accordance with the terms of this act, the government of British Columbia shall grant the absolute fee simple of and in the said lands to the said company.

19. All farming squatters who have made permanent improvements, and who have permanently resided for not less than two years previous to the passing of this act, upon any of the lands to be granted in pursuance of this act, shall be entitled to purchase from the company the lands upon which they have so resided, at the price of one dollar per acre; but all coal and other mines and minerals, in and under such lands, shall be reserved and granted to the company.

Turning to the statutes of 1874, (page 64), it will be seen that it is enacted as follows:

3. There is hereby granted to the Dominion government, for the purpose of constructing, and to aid in the construction of a railway between Esquimalt and Nanaimo, and in trust to be appropriated as they may deem advisable (but save as is hereinafter excepted) all that piece or parcel of land situate in Vancouver Island, described as follows:

Bounded on the south by a straight line drawn from the head of Saanich Inlet to Muir creek on the Straits of Fuca; on the west by a straight line drawn from Muir creek aforesaid to Crown Mountain; on the north by a straight line drawn from Crown Mountain to Seymour Narrows; and on the east by the coast line of Vancouver Island to the point of commencement; *and including all coal, coal oil, ores, stones, clay, marble, slate, mines, minerals, and substances whatsoever thereupon, therein, and thereunder:*

Section 23, page 67, enacts:

23. The company shall be governed by sub-section (*f*) of the hereinbefore recited agreement, and each *bona fide* squatter who has continuously occupied and improved any of the lands within the tract of land to be acquired by the company from the Dominion government for a period of one year prior to the first day of January, 1883, shall be entitled to a grant of the freehold of the surface rights of the said squatted land, to the extent of 160 acres to each squatter, at the rate of one dollar an acre.

It will be observed that while the Clements (bogus) bill only recognized squatters of five years' occupation the Dunsmuir (genuine) bill recognized the rights of squatters who had been only one year in occupation. A perusal of the Clements' act further shows that that company were not required to sell the lands acquired by them at one dollar or at any price per acre. They were to be allowed to charge any figure they might name for the lands. But the Dominion company are compelled by the terms of sub-section *f* to sell surface rights of their lands at $1 an acre for a period of four years from the passing of the act. Here is the section:

(*f*.) The lands on Vancouver Island to be so conveyed shall, except as to coal and other minerals, and also except as to timber lands as hereinafter mentioned, be open for four years from the passing of this act to small settlers, for agricultural purposes, at the rate of one dollar an acre, to the extent of 160 acres to each such actual settler.

The terms upon which the minerals were conveyed are identical in both acts. If the Smithe government erred, the Walkem-Beaven government were equally in error. But we contend that neither act conveyed the gold and silver contained in the belt. Gold and silver are "royal" metals and cannot be conveyed unless expressly named. Nowhere in either act are gold and silver mentioned. Old as well as recent English decisions can be produced to show that unless they are mentioned gold and silver do not go with the land. The Dominion government have laid claim to the precious metals in the railway belt; but they are also claimed by the province. There is nothing to show that they were conveyed with the lands, and the B. N. A. act exempts them unless they are expressly mentioned in the conveyance. The title of the province to the precious metals in the Mainland and Island railway belts has never been parted with.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

Again our opposition evening contemporary indulges in personal abuse instead of argument and "burkes" the question—we asked of it. As, until we know which position it intends to assume, it will be impossible to endeavor to show it the error of its ways, we will exert exemplary patience and ask it, again, which of the two standpoints it intends to take—that the province had an asset over liabilities last June, or that there then existed a deficit, and if so, what are the respective amounts, as the case may be? By-the-bye, about a week ago the Standard, in a two-line editorial, mysteriously hinted that it *might* have something more to say about the last issued balance sheet. We join with a tremblingly anxious public in the suspense which the withheld fiat of our morning contemporary has occasioned.

Sehl vs. Humphreys.

To the Editor:—In your paper of Friday last is published what purports to be a judgment delivered by Mr. Justice Gray *in re* Sehl *vs.* Humphreys.

Of the judgment itself I shall say nothing, but that it appears to me likely to create erroneous impressions in the minds of people unacquainted with the facts. The circumstances of the case are briefly these: I owed Mr. Sehl less than $100, balance due on an original debt of upwards of $200. On Dec. 29th, 1880, he obtained judgment for $233.06, including the exorbitant interest of 24 per cent. per annum, and costs. I objected to pay any such interest, but was ready to pay the principal. Mr. Sehl refused to settle unless I paid the full amount of the judgment. He framed the judgment and placed it in his shop window for public exhibition—a shabby and reprehensible method of blackmailing a man into paying extortionate charges. I subsequently paid him $63.14, leaving a balance of $36.86 due on original bill. In this six matters remained till January 25th, 1886, when he applied for payment of balance due on judgment of 29th December, 1880. Here is the claim as presented to me by Drake, Jackson & Helmcken:

STATEMENT.

Judgment, Dec. 29, 1880	$217 77
Costs	15 30
	$233 06
Interest to date ($233 06) 5 years at 12 ⅌ cent.	142 16
	375 22
Credits	62 14
Balance	$312 08

On 4th February last he issued a writ of *fieri facias* and handed it to the sheriff. Naturally, indignant at such an iniquitous proceeding, I instructed J. P. Walls to contest its validity. The case was heard by Mr. Justice Gray, who reduced Sehl's claim to nearly one-half. I immediately interviewed Sehl at his place of business, and tendered him $100 on account, which he refused. I offered to give him the goods I had purchased and make him a present of the money I had paid on account on them. This offer he also refused, saying "he would have the whole amount, interest and all." In the result I left him in disgust. Mr. Sehl availed himself of more than the law or common decency allows, to force me to pay a claim swollen by illegal and excessive interest and costs to five times the amount I owe him. Agreeably to the order of Mr. Justice Gray I paid $25 sheriff's fees and availed myself of a privilege which the law and common sense justifies when pursued by a vindictive tradesman.

T. B. Humphreys.

"Granite Creek or 'Bust.'"

To the Editor:—Owing to so many reports of a false nature being published regarding the geographical position of Granite creek and the best routes to get there, it may not be amiss for me to mention a few plain facts on the subject. In the first place neither Yale or Hope is more than 35 miles distant from Granite city, in a direct line, or the way a bird would fly. Secondly, in going from Hope you follow a natural pass, or water course, about three-quarters of the whole distance, or until you are within 15 miles of the "Golden City." From here it is down grade to the mines. Thirdly, the old wagon road, 25 miles in length (which was built in 1861), lies in a direct line between Hope and the Similkameen mines. Fourthly, instead of getting a road or trail from Yale to Granite city in half the distance of the Hope route the road or trail would be much longer than the Hope route; for the choice route, which would be certain to make a western Chicago, of Yale is up Siwash creek to its head and over the summit to what is called (by all the old Coquehalla miners) Boston Bar creek; following down Boston Bar creek about twenty miles to its mouth you come to the Coquehalla river and Hope Nicola trail at the 18 mile post (from Hope) and nearly twice eighteen miles from Yale. To keep on the course you must necessarily cross the Coquehalla river and another rock pile or mountain, about 4,000 feet high, twelve or fifteen miles to the Hope-Similkameen trail, or about the end of the old wagon road, you are then about thirty-three miles from Granite city. The positions are: Hope, latitude 49 deg. 22 min. 21 sec. north, longitude 121 deg. 27 min. 58 sec. west. Yale, latitude 49 deg. 33 min. 44 sec. north, longitude 121 deg. 25 min. 58 sec. west. Granite City is about the same latitude as Emory, and one degree east. Besides those two and the Nicola route to Granite City there is still another route from Portland, Oregon, to a place called Sprague, on the Northern Pacific railway, and from there by trail 300 miles to the mines, but I believe the Hope route to be shortest and best of any for a wagon road from steamboat navigation to the goldfields. However, the practicability of the different routes can be readily determined in the spring by an exploratory survey.

W. A. Starrett.

Female Suffrage.

To the Editor:—As I always make it a point to allow a woman to have the privilege of saying the last word, I shall on this occasion extend that privilege to your two correspondents who have addressed you on the above subject, assuring both "A Lady" and "A Woman from the Mainland" it is because I have more respect for them than they appear, in being advocates for female suffrage, to have for themselves that I am opposed to women being enfranchised, and moreover can discover no sufficient reasons in their elaborate communications to justify this dual representation being introduced. I cannot reconcile my mind to the supposition that men and women have those separate interests which require the female vote to rectify. I regard such a supposition as both unnatural and wrong, and if female suffrage is exercised it will be calculated to interfere with present harmony.

Publicola.

A Strong Plea for Womanhood Suffrage.

To the Editor:—In your paper of the 5th inst., "Publicola," in writing on female suffrage, is surprised that women should ask for the franchise on the ground of their rights. He evidently believes that they have no grievances at the present day, and wonders what they want by knocking at the door of the provincial legislature. I answer, women are there; not because they wish to be admitted to the halls of legislature, or occupy the unenviable position of jurors, or fill the public offices of honor and trust of our country; but because they are interested in the government of our province and wish to have a voice in its representation to parliament. Men have grievances, and because they have redress at the ballot-box their grievances are heard and respected. Women have grievances, and because they have no ballot they may be heard but not respected. We ask for it on the ground of our rights, because that is the foundation stone of our government. If it was not our right we would not have the presumption to ask for it. Was it not on these very grounds that the Dominion franchise act was so amended last year as to allow Indians to vote? Was it not on these very grounds that slavery was abolished and the privilege of the franchise extended to our African brother? Is it not on these very grounds that our sons at the age of twenty-one are allowed to vote? And yet women are supposed to have no rights in the matter, and because our mothers were satisfied centuries ago with being represented by man, the woman of to-day should be equally satisfied. But with man's enlightenment has come woman's enlightenment also. Our forefathers were satisfied with being represented by the nobility; but are the men of to day satisfied with this? Our forefathers were satisfied with the stage coach and sailing vessels; but are the men of to day? Away with such reasoning. "Publicola" thinks woman should remain in the privacy of their homes. Does he fear that if they should breathe the pure air of political freedom it would poison their moral lungs? Does he fear that the cords of affection which break not at the drunkard's strain will snap asunder at the first touch of political difference? Does he fear that the love of the mother for her child will be swallowed in the love of politics? I would ask whether it has made our noble Queen Victoria any less a woman, wife or mother because she has occupied the highest position of the realm and made politics and law a life study? Has it affected disastrously the kingdom of Great Britain? Rather has the morality improved, and the condition of woman been changed by the repealing of laws which made her a slave to man and prosperity and success crowned every year of her reign. If one woman can exert such an influence for good what can many women do with the power of the ballot? Hoping our legislature may thoroughly consider this subject before they vote on Mr. Drake's resolution, I remain,

A Lady.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT.

FOURTH SESSION.

Monday, March 8, 1886.

Speaker took the chair at 2 p. m. Prayers by Rev. Mr. Percival.

REPORT.

Mr Martin presented report of private bills committee recommending that time for receiving reports be extended until Monday next, 15th inst.

Received.

Mr. Beaven moved: Whereas, the act respecting the electoral franchise passed by the parliament of Canada at its last sitting curtails the political rights of some of the people of this province, be it therefore resolved, that a respectful address be presented to his honor, the lieutenant-governor, requesting him to urge the Dominion government either to repeal the act altogether or exempt this province from its operation.

The mover said that manhood suffrage had existed in the province for many years—that all men above twenty-one years of age, resident twelve months in the province and registered, were entitled to vote. The Dominion franchise act, which increased the voting power in other provinces, would tend to diminish its extent as affecting British Columbia. The fact that the Dominion act had contemplated giving a vote to all Indians and Chinese showed how little these latter people were understood, also the Indians of this coast who were entirely inferior to those of the east, and yet the act which proposed to extend voting power in this direction also proposed curtailing the white voting strength. It was possible that the Dominion government, if following the same course as it had shown a tendency to pursue, would by making the property qualifications of voters more stringent do away entirely with British Columbia representation in the commons. This might be an extreme view of the case, but it was possible, considering the course that seemed to be indicated. He thought it would look more like progress if the other provinces brought their franchise to the standard of that of British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. Davie could well conceive that any proposition in this regard made to the Dominion government by this province would be met with the rejoinder for the province to mind its own business. He had not heard anything in the last speaker's words to show him that British Columbia was unfairly treated in respect of the election of Dominion representatives. Those who were on the provincial voters' list were entitled to vote for Dominion representation, for the Dominion revising officers were compelled to follow the provincial lists.

Mr. Grant remembered hearing a Dominion representative of Victoria, alluding to the necessary property qualifications, say that it was a very poor man who could not earn $300 a year, or pay that amount in rent, showing thereby that his interpretation of the franchise act was that a money qualification was requisite.

Hon. Mr. Smithe also took the view that the Dominion government would ignore a resolution of this kind. It would be, also, a reflection upon their representatives at Ottawa as apparently passing them over on a subject which they were well competent to represent. The Dominion franchise act was a good thing, in that it placed all Dominion elections on a somewhat similar basis. The only stipulations made in this province with regard to local elections were that a voter must be a British subject, 21 years of age, have been a resident in the province for 12 months, and must also have duly registered his right to vote. The advisability of making it compulsory to place on record the names of all those entitled to vote at provincial elections had often been considered. He thought that to the Dominion government could be safely left the right to say who should be voters to return members to that parliament, the means they proposed to exclude aliens and those otherwise not entitled to vote from those lists being more effectual than those precautions observed by the province in regard to its own elections. He differed somewhat from the opinion of the attorney-general, though he would not go so far as to say that his own opinion was the correct one. There seemed to be a feeling on the part of members on this side of the house to have the matter fully discussed, and with this end in view he would therefore move that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. Beaven said this house might not have the legal right, or might not have the ability to change the tenor of the Dominion franchise act, but he thought it was its duty to forward this resolution. The requirement that a voter must be in receipt of a certain annual income or pay a certain annual rent, was bringing the qualification to a money basis, which he thought was not a right one. If the house wished the debate adjourned he had no particular objection to offer.

Debate adjourned till Thursday, next.

LAND COMMITTEE.

Mr. Pooley presented a further report of the land committee. Received.

MOTIONS.

Mr. T. Davie moved that an order of the house be granted for a return showing all public business transacted from the date of the last general election between the government of British Columbia or any of its members or any one acting in their behalf and R. L. T. Galbraith, Esq., M. P. P., or Galbraith Bros., of Kootenay, John Grant, Esq., M. P. P., or Galbraith, Grant & Cook, or Fletcher & Co., of Cassiar, and R. McLeese, Esq., M. P. P., of Cariboo.

In moving the above, Mr. Davie said he wished honorable members to disabuse their minds of any impression they might entertain of his having any personal feeling in the matter. He should have been the last one to have referred to any such circumstances, but for the fact that an attack had been made upon a certain member of that house by certain other members. He was not prepared to say that any transactions mentioned in the returns did or did not affect the requirements of the constitution act, his course in the matter being entirely non-committal; but he did deem it to be just that whether any of those gentlemen came within the provisions of the act or not, they should all be dealt with in the same manner [Hear, hear]. He presumed that this explanation would be sufficient, as to the motive that had induced him to place the motion on the notice paper.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Allen.

Hon. Mr. Robson said he would support the resolution upon general principles and justice. The leader of the opposition had taken up the—he would not say contemptible, but certainly extraordinary role of "informer" upon fellow-members. The act provided that the pecuniary penalty goes to the "informer," and it could never have been contemplated that such a disreputable business would be taken up by a member of the house. He was not aware of any member of any parliament in any civilized county ever having undertaken such work. However, the leader of the opposition had done so; and, having singled out the honorable member for New Westminster, it was a simple act of justice to include other and, perhaps, more deeply implicated members on the other side of the house. He would take the present opportunity of pointing out the injustice done to the honorable member for New Westminster by the return sent down to the house. Take, for instance, the "axe handle" of which the opposition organs were making such a *handle*. According to the returns it would appear as if the government had paid the firm $1 for a single axe-handle. But referring to that item in the "public accounts," it appears as "axe-handle, etc." Going to the fountain head, however, and referring to the original voucher, it was found that the item was "axe-handles, etc." It would then be seen that there was not the slightest ground for the suggestion of an overcharge, and, therefore, the opposition cry about the government having corruptly bribed the members by paying one dollar for an "axehandle" fell, like most of their cries, flat. But there was another feature of the case, which applied not alone to the 'axehandle' but to all the supplies to schools embraced in the return, and more or less to all the other transactions therein referred to. Hon. gentlemen were aware that an allowance of $40 was made to every rural school for "contingencies," that until year that this money was disbursed by the trustees of the respective schools, and vouched for by them. The transactions now under consideration were under this head; and not only had the government nothing to do with these purchases, but he felt quite sure that if they ventured to suggest or dictate to trustees as to where they should buy their "axehandles," they would get a very short answer. All they had to do with the matter was to pay the vouchers and take care that the vote for contingencies was not exceeded. It would be seen, therefore, that, as a matter of fact, the government had no more to do with these supplies being obtained from the firm of Cunningham & Company than the leader of the opposition had, and the same thing applied to a certain extent to the other supplies which were under the management of a committee of citizens, and with the procurement of which, or the deciding where they were to be purchased, the government had nothing whatever to do. He considered it due to the member for New Westminster, and to the government, to make these statements, and honorable members and the public would now see the emptiness of the "axehandle" cry.

Mr. Semlin said if the last speaker had anything to complain of in the way in which the return was brought down, the honorable gentleman should make that complaint to his own government and not to the opposition. To the end that the matter might be fully ventilated he would move that the government be requested to bring down returns of all business correspondence and business transactions between them and any members of the house since the election of the latter.

Mr. Dunsmuir—This is all humbug and claptrap (laughter), and I would suggest that the leader of the opposition withdraw his resolution in regard to my honorable friend on my right (Mr. Cunningham) and apologize to the house for taking up its time, and for having made the motion. (Laughter.) By thus stopping this debate the honorable gentleman will be doing good to the country (laughter), for as long as this claptrap is carried on the more the people will laugh at us outside; for they are laughing at us.

Mr. Beaven said he had no intention either of apologizing or of withdrawing any resolution he had introduced in this regard. The course he had pursued had only been in accord with his duty as a member of that house.

Mr. Grant was in favor of all returns alluded to in the amendment being brought down. If such a mistake as mentioned by the provincial secretary with regard to the axe handle had been made, it was right it should be rectified. If the "s" had been omitted the error should be repaired. The returns would at any rate give the people an opportunity of comparing the price of axe handles throughout the province.

The original resolution having been finally amended to read with the following words added, "or any member of this house or any one acting on his behalf," was carried.

Mr. Galbraith moved, That an address be presented to his honor the lieutenant governor praying that he will urge upon the Dominion government the necessity for a more frequent mail service to Farwell and the establishment of a weekly mail service between Farwell and Big Bend.

Carried.

SETTLED ESTATES.

A bill intituled "An act to amend the law relating to leases and sales of settled estates," introduced by Mr. Drake, was read a first time. Second reading on Thursday.

NEWCASTLE RESERVE.

Mr. Raybould moved that an order of the house be granted for a copy of the record, in the record book of Nanaimo district, which shows the reservation of the so-called Newcastle townsite reserve to have existed prior to the 5th May, 1885.

The mover said this question of the reserve had been before the house several times this session. There had been some feeling engendered in the definition of this particular reserve, owing to the proximity of the Island railway belt, and it was desirable that the matter be thoroughly made clear. Seconded by Mr. Dingwall.

Mr. Beaven said it had been charged that great injustice had been done by the chief commissioner to the settlers within the Island railway belt in not permitting them to take up land on the so called Newcastle reserve, which he maintained the settlement act threw open to pre-emption. The act, while making special mention of other reserves, had not alluded to the Newcastle reserve, which was therefore thrown open to settlement.

Hon. Mr. Smithe called the last speaker to order. The return had not been objected to, and unless he were prepared to show there was no existing record, or give any reason why the return could not be made, he was entirely out of order.

Mr. T. Davie said the position taken by the leader of the opposition was entirely inconsistent with his professions in that house. He (Mr. Beaven) had always urged that he was opposed to monopolies and land-grabbing, and yet here he was found blaming the government for not doing that which if they had done unsolicited, he (Mr. Beaven) would have been the first to characterize as a land-grab.

The Speaker called the hon. gentleman to order, saying there was nothing before the house to show that there was any attempt at land grabbing nor that anybody was trying to get possession of the land. The hon. gentleman would see that when the return came before the house he would be in a better position to go into details.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said the point of order he had raised had not been attended to. If hon. gentlemen were allowed to go outside the resolution there would be no limit to the debate.

Mr. Galbraith—I rise to a point of order. The last speaker is out of order.

Speaker—Both hon. gentlemen are out of order, and must sit down. [Laughter.]

Hon. Mr. Smithe—My point of order was that other members went beyond the subject of debate.

Speaker—The hon. gentleman rose to a point of order, and instead of discussing its merits went into other particulars. He should remember that he knows the information the hon. member for Nanaimo wants to get, but he forgets that other members are not in the same position.

Hon. Mr. Smithe still claimed his right to speak on the point of order. As long as the opposite side of the house were allowed such latitude in discussion he was compelled to depart in an equal degree for the purpose of refuting their statements.

Mr. Pooley rose to speak, but the Speaker said that the member for Victoria city (Mr. T. Davie) had the floor if he chose to exercise his right to it.

Mr. T. Davie accordingly arose and said that Mr. Beaven was not contending that the lands should be thrown open to settlement, but was defending the claims of two individuals to certain portions of it. There was one claimant to the land named Hoggan, though there was no suggestion of terms intended to refer to the fact that he kept hogs. [Laughter.]

Speaker—I think the hon. gentleman had better not go into details [Laughter.]

Mr. T. Davie—I merely wanted to show him (Mr. Beaven) up on the land-Hoggan question. [Renewed laughter]

Mr. Pooley said the land committee were now going into the matter, and he held a very strong opinion on the subject—one, moreover, which was not at all in accord with the statement of the leader of the opposition. [Hear, hear.]

After further discussion on the point of order the motion was carried.

LAND ACT.

A bill entitled "An Act to Amend Land Act, 1884," by Hon. Mr. Davie, was read a first time. Second reading Thursday.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The report of the private bills committee extending time limit for receiving reports was adopted.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. Martin asked the chief commissioner the following question: How many acres have been granted to the Ainsworth Company in the Yale district, and if any, where situated?

Hon. Mr. Smithe—Application has been made for a grant of 640 acres, situated on Seymour river, at the head of Shuswap lake, under the provisions of the Eagle Pass Wagon Road Act, 1883.

Mr. Galbraith asked: Is it the intention of the government to provide for county and superior courts being held as stated times throughout the year at Farwell and in other parts of the Kootenay district?

Hon. Mr. Davie—It is the intention of the government to appoint courts as business may require.

Mr. Raybould asked the chief commissioner of lands and works the following questions: 1. By whom was the so-called Newcastle townsite reserve made? 2. Is the so-called Newcastle townsite reserve surveyed within the meaning of sec. 31 of the "Land Act, 1884?" 3. Does the townsite extend beyond the surveyed townsite on the so-called Newcastle townsite reserve? 4. Do the suburban lots extend beyond the surveyed suburban lots? 5. When was the word "townsite" first used to describe the so-called Newcastle townsite reserve?

Hon. Mr. Smithe—(1.) The Hudson Bay Company. (2) There has been no survey of the Newcastle townsite reserve gazetted, as is required by section 31 of the Land Act, 1884. (3) The whole reserve has been known as the Newcastle townsite reserve. (4) The whole of the lands in question are either urban or suburban. (5) In 1860.

MEDICAL BILL (ADJOURNED COMMITTEE.)

House went into committee on the medical bill, Mr. Raybould in the chair.

The committee reported progress and will sit again Thursday.

PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Semlin corrected his remarks in *The Colonist* where it conveyed the impression that he said the Vancouver gas co. were the only ones able to carry out such works. He did not think this, for there were plenty of others who could.

RETURN OF REVENUE.

Hon. Mr. Duck presented the returns of revenue for the various districts for the six months ending 31st Dec., 1885.

MECHANICS' LIEN.

The house went into committee on the mechanics' lien bill, Mr. Martin in the chair.

The committee reported progress.

RETURNS.

Hon. Mr. Smithe presented the return asked of the correspondence, etc., in reference to the giving of the crown grant to the Farwell townsite.

House rose at 5 45.

EVENING SESSION.

House went into committee on a bill entitled an "Act to amend the Nanaimo water works act, 1885," Mr. Cunningham in the chair.

Mr. Dunsmuir said clause 38 should be amended to read "It shall not be lawful for the company or its contractors to employ any Chinese in connection with this undertaking or in maintaining the same." He thought the proposed amendments to private bills with regard to employment of Chinese that had been framed by the attorney-general were too stringent.

Hon. Mr. Smithe did not suppose there was a member of that house except the last speaker who would object to the clause being inserted. The government proposed to treat all private bills, which conferred privileges upon the promoters, alike, and invariably insert the clause. [Hear, hear.]

Mr. Galbraith said the borough member for Nanaimo should do the graceful thing and set himself right before the country by moving that the clause be inserted. When he and other honorable members had passed away, succeeding generations would say of the honorable member for Nanaimo, "What a philanthropist he was!" They will rise up and call him blessed. (A laugh.)

Mr. Dunsmuir answered that he did know whether they would look up or down on that occasion (laughter), but they would at any rate be doing no more he had always pursued was consistent.

The clause with regard to employment of Chinese was inserted; the penalty for each offence under it being fixed not to exceed $25 nor less than $10.

Mr. Drake asked if the restriction of Chinese was meant to apply to naturalized Chinese. If so, it was preferable that in passing the amendment the house was exceeding its powers in legislating against its own people.

Hon. Mr. Smithe was undoubtedly intended to exclude these also; but whether that effort would be successful remained to be seen.

Bill reported complete with amendments.

MECHANICS' LIEN.

Mechanics' Lien bill (in committee), Mr. Martin in the chair.

Speaking to clause 14 Mr. Drake asked if it was intended to give the mechanic a direct lien upon the property of the owner, or merely to give him a cumulative remedy to recover the amount of wages due him.

Hon. Mr. Duck said it was to give him a lien upon the property to an amount not exceeding $100.

Speaking to clause 20, which proposed to give justices of the peace power to issue an injunction restraining the removal of property against which a lien had been registered, Mr. Wilson said that while aware of the well intentioned efforts of the introducer (Hon. Mr. Duck) to protect a most deserving class of the community, he was afraid that through no fault of his (Mr. Duck's) the act would prove a failure. Experience had shown that most of the acts in this direction were failures, not only here, but elsewhere. In Ontario, judges had expressed themselves strongly on the difficulty they met in construing these acts which were found, as he was afraid this would be found, to be unworkable. If he were called upon to argue the case of a client under it, he could say, honestly, he would not know how to construe its many apparent contradictions. If the act ever got to court the house would expose itself to ridicule, he was almost inclined to say to contempt. The unfortunate man who came under its provisions would go to a lawyer who would most likely say, "I cannot really tell you what it means, but you can go into court and find out!" As one example of the injuries it might inflict he might allude to a most dangerous clause which proposed to put into the hands of a justice of the peace, the power of issuing an injunction on the owner of property, restraining him from removing the same while a lien was registered against it. All justices of the peace tried, no doubt, to act rightly, but if such power were put into their hands they would almost be sure to misunderstand it. The bill was sure to cause more litigation than all acts that had been passed during the session. The acts already on the statute books referring to liens were difficult of construction, and this being the case how much more would not the difficulty be increased by the present bill. He would have been only too happy to have supported the bill, whose mover he knew to be heartily in favor of the rights of the class in whose interests the bill was introduced, but he felt too firmly convinced that it would not only miscarry in its interests, but was, as it stood, unconstitutional.

Mr. Drake took a somewhat similar view and proposed that clause 20 be struck out.

Hon. Mr. Duck said there had nothing as yet been produced to the house which he could see would at all preclude the act from passing. It had not been shown that it would injure anyone, or would be unworkable.

Messrs Wilson and Galbraith were of opinion that the act as at present was unworkable, and recommended that it either be withdrawn or that further consideration be given it.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said he could not see why such suggestions should be offered at that stage. Let the bill pass through its various clauses, amending them where necessary, and if it was not considered good by the time it reached its third reading, then vote it down.

Hon. Mr. Robson said his lawyer had advised him last year against the lien law now in force, as neither lawyer nor judge understood its workings. He could not see anything in the bill now submitted that was so very intricate; in fact, he did not think it would require a lawyer to understand it—it was as simple as English could make it.

Mr. McLeese favored the passage of the bill, as he felt sure it would be of great benefit to the class it was intended to assist.

After further discussion the bill was reported complete with amendments, to be considered on Thursday.

DRYDOCK RETURNS.

Mr. Semlin asked the honorable minister of finance when the returns asked for in regard to the drydock would be brough down?

Hon. Mr. Duck said the departments were at work early and late preparing financial returns, and though the drydock returns would be got out as soon as possible, yet it would be two weeks before it could be done.

LICENSES.

The act to amend the license ordinance, 1885, introduced by Mr. Galbraith, was considered in committee, Mr. Grant in the chair.

An amendment was introduced granting power to stipendiary magistrates and gold commissioners to issue licenses in mining and outlying districts.

Mr. Speaker Mara thought the amendment proposed should receive more consideration. He thought the licensing system at present was bad, and also thought that the amendments proposed by the hon. member for Cassiar were in the right direction.

Mr. Cunningham had several amendments to submit, and thought the matter should be deferred until further consideration could be given to it.

Mr. Galbraith said he only wished to do what was best, and he thought there could be no objection to granting the powers to gold commissioners, as a board of licensing magistrates could not be got together in outlying districts.

Mr. Speaker said that there was another matter that should be considered and that was the increasing of license fees.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said the government had already that matter under consideration and would soon bring it before the house.

On motion of Mr. Galbraith the committee reported progress and will sit again Tuesday.

House adjourned at midnight.

MOTIONS.

Mr. Orr—To ask leave to introduce a bill entitled "an act to amend an act passed in the 47th year of Her Majesty's reign, chapter 21, intituled an act to amend the municipality act, 1881."

Hon. Mr. Davie—To ask leave to introduce a bill intituled "an act to amend the Legal Profession act, 1884."

QUESTION.

Mr. Orr—To ask the chief commissioner is it the intention of the government to open the lands west of the North Road in the district of New Westminster to sale and settlement.

The "Olla Podrida."

To the Editor:—It only lately having come to my knowledge that by an inadvertent error in your report of the "Olla Podrida" regarding a *dead baby*, that a number of ill-natured, ignorant and mischievous remarks have been called forth, calculated to give those who were not present a wrong idea of song and tableau. By correcting the line that a "mother was rocking a cradle, in which a baby had just died" to "a cradle in which she had just laid her baby," you would much oblige me.

I am sorry to trouble you with such a trifle but scandal is best nipped in the bud. In the well known old Irish song, "The Angel's Whisper," by Samuel Lover, a fisherman's wife is singing a baby to sleep, while its father is at sea, and seeing a smile on its face she imagines, with the superstition natural to that class, that the angels are whispering to it. This is the true version of the song, and our tableau.

Jane P. Bissett.

Eastern Canada Mail.

[Per Northern Pacific Railway.]

Toronto, March 2.—The customs returns for the last month show an increase of $23,158 over the corresponding month of last year.

Winnipeg, Feb. 27.—The half breeds held a public meeting to-day at St. Laurent, leading men from all the French parishes being present. Resolutions were adopted thanking the Government in warm terms for the humane manner in which the half breeds had been treated since last spring. It was decided that the half breeds should ask the Government for a free grant of their lands, basing the claim on being the original possessors. They will also ask that an industrial school for half breed children be established in the district, that amnesty be extended to the half-breeds in prison and across the border, that naturalization be made more accessible, and that electoral districts be erected in the French settlements. Riel's name was not mentioned in any way by any of the speakers during or after the meeting.

Windsor, Feb. 27.—Samuel Stover and C. W. Bristol were invited to call at the office of the collector of customs a day or two ago. Stover was and Bristol is a cigar manufacturer. They purchased their labels in Detroit, and the customs officials thought more labels went into the factories than those on which duty was paid. A careful and patient investigation was made and the suspicion was verified. The cigar men could offer no satisfactory explanation, and they were required to pay the value of the labels on which duty had not been paid. The sum Bristol handed over was $986.60; Stover contributed $861.40 to the Government.

The voters' lists for the north riding of Essex shows that the Franchise Act has added about two thousand additional voters. There is an increase of over six hundred in this town.

Guelph, March 1.—There is quite a scramble for the Wellington shrievalty. The strongest candidate is ex-Mayor Howard, but it is said Warden Massie, of the Central prison, will return here as sheriff, Col. Higginbotham, registrar, is also mentioned.

Ottawa, March 2.—The flying column for duty in the Northwest, composed of the Fredericktion and Toronto Infantry regiments, have received orders to leave for the west towards the close of the present month.

Kingston, March 1.—At the last meeting of the council Ald. Ellseck dragged Rev. Mr. Gallaher's name into his remarks, alluding to him in a light way, calling him Father Gallaher. The rev. gentleman, who is a Presbyterian, has caused his solicitor to write Ellseck demanding a public apology. The insult has caused much feeling among the Presbyterians.

Petrolia, March 1.—Two children, son and daughter of Alexander Hughes, while going to Sarnia were given a ride by a passing team laden with logs. The team broke down and the logs rolled over the children, killing the girl and fatally injuring the boy.

Hoaning's Mills, March 2.—A McKinney while working round his planing mill yesterday, got his left arm mangled into a jelly by the knives of the machine. It was amputated two inches above the elbow.

Port Perry, March 1.—A fire yesterday destroyed the store occupied by Jas. Boxall, stoves and tinware; W. T. Parrish, hardware; J. H. Brown, general store, besides damaging several others adjoining. Considerable damage was also done to goods by removal; loss, $30,000; partially insured.

The widow of the late Horatio Seymour died at Utica, N. Y., on the 8th instant.

A LEADVILLE HANGING.

Some Very Lively Scenes—The Coffined Corpse Thrown from a Sleigh.

Leadville, Col., Feb. 5.—Cyrus H. Minich who was found guilty of the murder of Samuel Baldwin, on Oct. 14, 1884, was hanged here to-day in the presence of between 6,000 and 8,000 people. The gallows was erected about a mile and a half above the city in a small grove of cedar trees, and the ground was covered with snow from three to four feet deep. Such a sight was never before witnessed in the West. For three hours before the hanging the hills were covered with people trudging through the waist-deep snow on their way to the gallows. While the snow was so deep the sun shone bright and warm, making it pleasant to be out of doors. Over 1,000 sleighs carried the people to the scene. In many cases the horses mired, and the sleighs stuck fast in the snow, and the people abandoned their conveyances and made for the scaffold on foot. It is estimated that 5,000 men quit work in the mines to witness the execution.

The condemned man was carried to the scaffold in a four-horse sleigh, and was accompanied by twenty guards. The mountain pines in the vicinity were loaded down with men and boys who had climbed into them, commanding a good view of the structure, and all the space for hundreds of yards around was crowded with people in vehicles, the horses attached to which were half submerged in the snow. Minich jumped from his sled to the scaffold unaided. After the usual ceremonies on the scaffold, the condemned man stepped to the front and addressed the large crowd:

Gentlemen: I wish to speak to you to-day, for I am not a guilty man. I know nothing about the murder of Baldwin. I know nothing about it. I am here through perjury and conspiracy. I propose to die for my God, and expect to meet him in a short time. There has been a good deal of talk in the newspapers by people who know nothing about me. I want to speak alone of my family, and can show a good record from infancy up. I have no blemishes on my soul. The people are my judges, and have convicted me of murder, but I am no degraded murderer and robber. I want to speak of a man named Casserleigh. He is a detective, or called a detective, but he is not a civilized being. He is almost a murderer. He writes letters to my family in the east, which you will see in the newspapers, trying to get money to go to California. He has certified to reports that he knew were false. I was arrested in Alma on the 15 of October, two days after the murder. I was innocent as a lamb led to the slaughter. I knew of no attorney in Leadville, and did not want to. Casserleigh proposed I should hire Judge Rice for a lawyer, and was told by Judge Rice there was nothing against me. I told him my witnesses, and he said I would get clear without any trouble whatever. I was brought into the court room that day as innocent as a lamb to the slaughter. He said I would get clear. He was wrong. My last attorneys were good attorneys. They did all they could for me, but did not come into the case until too late. I know I am a sinner; all men have sinned. Some of you here to-day will meet me again and some of you will not, because you will not be able to go where I go to. I am an innocent man. Good-by to all. Good-by.

Several persons in the crowd answered, "Good-by, Cy."

Minich then turned,