

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1893.

A MISTAKE CORRECTED.

In our article of yesterday, on the prosecution of the Messrs. Kennedy, we said that all the members of the Private Bills Committee were included in the Columbian's condemnation—that it made no exception. On referring to the article, which we could not get at the time, we find that in this we were mistaken. The Columbian did except Messrs. Semlin and Keith. As we wish to be accurate, and have no desire whatever to misrepresent the Messrs. Kennedy, we hasten to make the correction. Our error, however, does not affect our argument, and does not place the publishers of the Columbian in a better position.

What one of the members of the Private Bills Committee, who was excepted by name from the accusations preferred against the majority of that committee, thought of the Columbian's article, may be seen from what he said when the matter was brought to the attention of the House by Mr. Martin. Mr. Keith, who was very indignant, is reported to have said:

"It was with great regret that he addressed the House on this question, but, as a member of the Private Bills Committee, he considered it his duty to make his protest against the article in question. He thought that this was a most gratuitous insult to the committee. It was unfair, unjust and cowardly to write such an article, and he, for one, thought that steps should be taken to protect the members of the House in the transaction of their business as members of any committee, and this paper leaves the inference that the committee was venal, and that they were bought to bring in their report as they did. But, he said, no matter how he might differ from the majority of the committee, he could not see his way to permit such a charge to remain unchallenged, and he, for one, could see no justification at all in the utterly uncalculated attack that was made. He thought that the House should at once take steps to prevent a recurrence of such a thing. He was very sorry it had happened, but, if such a state of affairs was permitted to go on, no one could say that any member would be free from such attacks when he happened to disagree with a newspaper. He trusted that the members of the House would sink all political differences, and arise as one man and put a stop to such disgraceful attacks on its members."

This is very strong language and we have no doubt that Mr. Keith meant every word he said. And he knew whereof he affirmed. He attended the meetings of the Committee, and if anything which he considered all suspicious had taken place he would not have expressed his confidence in the integrity of the majority, with whom he differed in opinion, so very emphatically. He, having heard all that was said at the meetings of the Committee and being in a position to observe all that was done, could see no "justification at all" for the Columbian's attack, which he characterized as "utterly uncalculated." Mr. Semlin, the other gentleman excepted, was far from justifying the Columbian's article. He did not approve of the course which the House was taking, not because he considered that the Committee deserved what had been said of it, for he stated expressly that he did not wish to minimize the Columbian's offense, but gave it as his opinion that the attack would do the members no harm and he did not think it wise to make a martyr of the editor.

Now, if the Private Bills Committee had acted in the way described by the Columbian, these two gentlemen, who possess more than ordinary intelligence, and who are not at all backward in expressing their opinion when it is unfavorable to the majority, would have eagerly embraced the opportunity to expose and denounce the wrong-doing of their fellow members. If there was any wrong-doing to expose or denounce. As they did not do so, but, on the contrary, joined in the condemnation of the Columbian's article, it is fair to conclude that there were really no grounds for the accusations it contained.

We are sorry that we stated that there were no exceptions to the Columbian's condemnation, for we desire to be strictly accurate in the statements we make; but as the mistake has directed our attention to the way in which the gentlemen excepted regarded the Columbian's article, it must be admitted it has done good rather than harm. It has been the means of showing us that the men who know most about the doings of the Private Bills Committee, and whose interest it is, from a political point of view, to join in the Columbian's condemnation of the majority of its members, have not only not done so, but have denounced its attack as unjustifiable, uncalculated for and ill-adviced.

THE COLONIAL RELATION.

The London Times discusses the Colonial relation quite freely, but not in an unfriendly spirit. It sees that the Colonies are in some respects an embarrassment to the Mother Country, and says so frankly; it also believes that there should be a reciprocity of benefits between Great Britain and her Dependencies, and it gives free expression to its belief. We do not see that Colonists have any reason to complain of this. It is indeed good for them in many ways to know how they are regarded by their fellow subjects in Great Britain.

The Times writer, who, though not an editorial contributor, writes with approval the following extract from a speech lately delivered by Lord Rosebery at the City Liberal Club:

"We have been pulled out of Europe by the great Empire which has been growing up outside these islands during the last 40 years, while we have been almost sitting still with folded hands and watching the growth of a power which we can divide the foreign policy of this Empire into the Eastern and Western questions, and they

are the questions of India and Canada. . . . We must recognize that the foreign policy of this Empire is not a policy of isolation, but a policy of expansion, and it is in reality at this moment much more dictated from the necessities of the Empire than it is from London itself."

He also quotes the following passage from Lord Salisbury's address to a deputation of the Imperial Federation League. His Lordship said:—

"Sir John Lubbock very justly pointed out a consideration of which, in my office, I am especially sensible—the large portion of our foreign negotiations which arises entirely out of our colonial connections; and that the effect is so, that from time to time we have to exercise great vigilance lest we should incur dangers which do not arise from any interest of our own but arise entirely from the interests of the important and interesting communities with which we are linked."

Canadians, particularly, ought to be able to realize that the relations of the large colonies to foreign nations must give the British Foreign Minister much anxious thought. He knows that if a colony gets into a dispute with a foreign nation it looks to Great Britain to settle it satisfactorily to its interests, and he must be ever on the watch that such disputes do not lead to serious difficulties and perplexing entanglements. And while he is worried over these colonial questions it is the most natural thing in the world for him to ask on behalf of the people for whom he is acting, "What do we get for all this trouble and anxiety, and what are we likely to get?" This is the train of thought into which the writer in the Times has fallen when contemplating the Behring Sea question, which then occupied so much of public attention on both sides of the Atlantic.

These Behring Sea negotiations are a forcible practical illustration of this train of thought. The settlement of this dispute one way or the other is a matter which does not directly affect the population of the British Islands. Whether the sealabing that comes to the British market are obtained by Canadian sealers on the high seas, or by the United States company on the Friboly Islands, is a matter of indifference to the English purchaser; it affects neither the quality nor the price. The dispute which has arisen between this country and the United States is one which concerns not our home interests, but those of a country over whose affairs we have practically almost no control, and who treats us as her commercial enemy. Now there is no doubt that the conviction has taken root that somehow the power and the commercial supremacy of the British Empire is connected with its world-wide distribution, and that its dismemberment would not only reduce the great colonies to petty republics, but would seriously affect the position of the mother country. At the same time it is admitted that the source of weakness; it multiplies our vulnerable points. British North America has kept our relations not only with the United States but with France in a state of tension for years. Eight years ago it was the Cape Colony that gave rise to some very disagreeable passages between our Government and that of Germany. It may be Canada, it may be the Cape Colony, but the result is always the same; the brother over the seas must do the fighting, if fighting is necessary, or bear the burden and expense of protracted negotiations. Now, it is being asked, how long is this to go on? How long are we to fight the battles and settle the quarrels of semi-independent states that lend us no helping hand and treat us in all other respects as a foreign country?"

There is food for thought in these utterances of the London Times. It is quite evident that the colonial relation, as it is at present, cannot last for ever. It is not certain, indeed, that it would bear any great strain, if the Liberal Party desired, entered into a commercial union with the United States, that, as it would have to do, the Mother Country, not only as a foreigner but in a commercial sense as an enemy, how long would the relations between them and daughter remain even cordial? There is no doubt that separation would be the almost immediate result. It is not in the nature of things that it could be otherwise.

There are Canadians who profess to be indignant at what the Times has published. We do not think that they are reasonable in getting angry when they see an important subject calmly and reasonably discussed. It may not be pleasant to them to hear that Canada is regarded by some thinking people in the Old Country as something like a poor relation, who is always preferring the claims of kindred in order to get favors, but who is conveniently oblivious of them when duties are to be performed. Canadians do not wish to be regarded in this light. They see that the time is coming when they will be regarded either as bear some of the burden of the household or as set up, housekeeping on their own account. There are many who desire the closer relation, even if it does bring with it new duties and additional burdens. They know that a change must come in any case, and they are not afraid to look the situation in the face in order that they may be prepared, when the time comes, to act with prudence and deliberation. The number in Canada who think it good policy to shut their eyes to the future is constantly decreasing.

A PECULIAR POSITION.

The difficulty between the United States and Italy has been at last satisfactorily settled. The United States has paid the Italian Government twenty-five thousand dollars to be distributed among the families of the men who were lynched at New Orleans. The United States Government was in rather a peculiar position with regard to the Italian subjects who were murdered by the New Orleans mob. Each of the States being sovereign as regards the maintenance of peace within its borders, the Federal Government had no authority either to punish the murderers of the unfortunate Italians, or to compel the State in which the outrage had been committed to make reparation for the injury sustained by the subjects of King Humbert. The Italian

Government knew nothing officially about the State of Louisiana. It looked to the Government of the United States for redress. But under the Constitution that Government could do nothing in the matter. The State of Louisiana is in many respects as independent of it as is the kingdom of Italy.

When satisfaction was demanded by Italy for the injury done to the Italians in one of the States of the Union, the Government of the United States, awake to the fact that, although it is responsible to foreign powers for the treatment that their subjects and citizens receive in the territory under its jurisdiction, it has no means of protecting them. Every one must see how awkward it is for a Government to be responsible where it has no authority. An American newspaper, realizing this difficulty, says: "If the General Government is to assume the duty of paying indemnity whenever a popular uprising or a riotous demonstration results in injury to the subjects of a foreign power, that duty should carry with it the right of such extension of Federal authority as will reasonably insure the safety of aliens." There is no doubt of this; but the question is, will the different States allow such an interference in their domestic affairs by the Federal Government as is necessary to secure the safety of alien residents? For instance, would the people of the State of Louisiana permit a regiment of Federal soldiers to be sent there to disperse the mob which had gathered for the purpose of lynching the Italians who had been tried by a court of justice and acquitted? If the Federal Government had attempted to exercise its authority in this righteous way, the probability is that there would be such an agitation, not in Louisiana alone, but in many other States of the Union, that could not have been allayed without bloodshed.

It is not likely that a proposal to amend the Constitution in such a way as to give the Federal Government authority in the matter of protecting foreigners, commensurate with its responsibilities, would be listened to for a moment. So delicate is this matter, and so sensitive are the people of the United States with regard to it, that President Harrison did not venture to ask Congress for the money to pay this Italian indemnity. The twenty-five thousand dollars agreed upon was taken out of an appropriation of \$30,000, which is voted every year to meet unforeseen emergencies in the diplomatic and consular services. But the Government may not be always able to get over a difficulty of this kind so easily.

NO DEFENSE.

The course which the Opposition newspapers have taken in the Kennedy affair is not creditable to them. Not one of them has had the hardihood to assert that the charges made by the Columbian against the Private Bills Committee are true. They do not repeat the Columbian's accusations. In fact, they say as little as they possibly can about them, yet they give aid and comfort to the Columbian, while the publishers refuse either to make good their charges or offer an apology for their statements. Every one knows what is thought of men who give others on to do what they are afraid or ashamed to do themselves, and who encourage offenders in their resistance to authority.

Why do not the Opposition papers who clap the Kennedys on the back, and treat them as heroes and patriots, say plainly that they did right in trying to lead the public to believe that the majority of the members of the Private Bills Committee are corrupt, and that their ways in treating the bills that come before them are "dark," "devious" and "crooked"? Why do they not boldly state that a newspaper has a right to say anything that suits its publishers or inspires about members of the Legislature, and when they are required to give an account of what they have published, to set the authority of the Legislature at defiance? Why, indeed, do they not deny that the Assembly has either a legal or an equitable right to hold proprietors of newspapers responsible for what they may choose to publish with respect to itself and its members? All this and more is implied in the articles and paragraphs which they publish, not in defence of the Kennedys, but in no attempt to defend their act, but in defiance of the authority of the Legislative Assembly.

Do the Opposition newspapers, when they contend for the right of publishers to do wrong, believe that they are defending the liberty of the Press? Are they defending the opinion that the man who says what is injurious to the reputation of his neighbor or refuses either to prove his statements or to retract them, is when he is the publisher of a newspaper, to be regarded as doing what is right and honorable? Is it their opinion that there is one standard of right and honor for publishers of newspapers and another and a higher one for men of other occupations?

The course which the Opposition newspapers is pursuing in countenancing and encouraging what they do not and cannot defend, is "fouling their own nests" in the most effectual way possible. They are doing their very best to lower the character of the press in this province, and to justify what all who hate it and fear it say to its prejudice. This is what newspaper-men, who respect themselves and their calling, should say. Is what the Kennedys have said of the Private Bills Committee true? If it is, let them prove their assertions. If it is not, let them, as honest men and good citizens, apologize and retract. This is the plain and straightforward course. All that has been said and written to justify their not taking it is simply dishonest subterfuge.

THE ANARCHISTS.

The Anarchists are still at work. They are committing outrages and disturbing society in many parts of Europe. They work in the dark, and the fear of them is all the greater because their doings are involved in mystery. The agent with which they propose to effect their purposes is a deadly one, and the victims of their outrages are not warned, and cannot take precautions against their secret and treacherous attacks.

But it does not appear that the Anarchists are at all formidable, and the terror they create is out of all proportion to the danger that the communities in which they are known to exist is in from their plots. It is fortunate for the anarchists that they are so few, and that their outrages do not create a widespread panic. If once the fear of them becomes general they will be hunted down like wild beasts. No mercy will be shown them by the men of any nation. They will be regarded as the enemies of mankind, and they will be treated as such. The London Times concludes an article on the arrest of Ravachol in these words:

"Nothing can be more clear than that men of the Ravachol type are not acting against one Government alone or against the laws of one country alone. They are the enemies of (take the word) every system, which Europe and America have laboriously organized in the course of centuries. They strike at law and order in every country, not only in any one country in particular. Every Government, then, is equally interested in putting them down. If piracy and the slave trade are pronounced by international agreement to be acts hostile to the public law of every nation, so are the acts of the Anarchists. If they find that the guilt of them are to be attacked and destroyed by any one and every one wherever they are found, so it will have to be with the Anarchists. There need be no violent panic or haste about it. There must be joint action, but it should be deliberate and open, and a fair warning should be given to those whom it threatens. If they find that all civilized Governments are acting together, and that escape from the scaffold and the convict prison is thus rendered almost impossible, they shall see a rapid thinning of the ranks, and a rapid return to some kind of decent living on the part of the professors and practitioners of dynamite."

But it is not likely that the Anarchists will ever be so numerous as to require the nations to guard against them in this way. Their ranks will be recruited from the fanatics the criminals and the cranks of communities, and although these are, unhappily, too numerous everywhere, they, after all, form but a very small minority of the human race.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

The chief features in the Supplementary Estimates are the additions to the Ministers' salaries and the provision made for the establishment of a new Department to be presided over by the Minister of Education and Immigration. We do not believe that there are many who will find fault with the increase to the salaries of the Heads of the Department. The work of the Government is constantly increasing, and men competent to perform the duties of Ministers are not by any means too well paid when they get \$4,000 a year. The Premier, we are pleased to see, is to get \$5,000, which, if he works as hard as the Hon. Mr. Robson does, will not be considered by any means a disproportionate remuneration.

The establishment of a Department of Education and Immigration has become a necessity. The oversight of the public school system must take up a considerable part of a Minister's time and attention, and as the population of the province increases there will be more provinces wanting more than anything else, we are glad to see that the Government proposes to devote more attention than hitherto to encouraging a good class of immigrants to settle in the province and to see that they are placed where they will be of most benefit to the province and be best able to improve their own condition. The Government, by well and intelligently directed effort can do a great deal in this direction to advance the prosperity of the province. If the right man is placed at the head of the new Department, and if his efforts are judiciously seconded by the representatives of the people, he will be able to make many much-needed improvements.

The organ of the Opposition will, of course, be a thorn in the side of the new Minister. It is evidently considered that its mission is to make mischief in the Department of Education; but it is comforting to know that its ability is not at all proportioned to its zeal. Hitherto, although it has made a good deal of noise, it has not done much harm. It has not aided in making a single improvement in our system of public education, but it has not injured it to any appreciable extent. We see that the step that has already been taken towards establishing a Department of Education has roused its ire. It has growled its first growl at the change, and given the gentleman who, as it supposes, is to be the first head of the new Department a taste of its quality.

ENCOURAGE ENTERPRISE.

Every one who knows anything about British Columbia sees what immense advantages it must derive from the opening up and development of its Northern section. There is in that section a very large area of territory which, with almost absolute certainty, is now lying almost absolutely idle. In its present condition it is of little use to any one here or elsewhere. What is required to make it available to the inhabitants of the province and to immigrants from other lands, is a railroad, or a system of railroads. Enterprising men offer to construct a road through this wilderness, and they ask in order to enable them to carry out their enterprise, a grant of this wild land. In order to make all the land of the region valuable, the Legislature has consented to give the railway company

land along the projected track. The road when it is constructed will make all the land available for any useful purpose valuable, the small quantity which is given to the company and the immense area which belongs to the province.

Both political parties, it seems, are willing to grant the land to the company that builds the road, but there is a difference between them as to the terms of the grant. The Government and its supporters are ready to give the land to the Railway Company free from burdens of all kinds; but the Opposition would make it subject to taxation. It must seem most unreasonable to all thoughtful people to burden a company that undertakes to construct a road through an unsettled country with taxes. They have many difficulties to surmount, and they require all the help and encouragement that can be given them. Their object is to make a country now unproductive productive, and they are willing to wait for their profits and to take their chances of success. To place taxes on the shoulders of such men would be like placing manacles on the legs of a man who had entered to run in a race. If the company succeeds, no one should begrudge them their reward, no matter how great it may be, and if they fail, the stipulation to pay taxes will be inoperative. The obstructive spirit which would make a land grant valueless, by compelling the grantees to pay taxes, would shake the progress of the province in every direction. It is lucky for its inhabitants that the obstructive spirit is so much less than the spirit of enterprise and enterprise as they are short-sighted and stupid.

The people of the province are to be congratulated on the fact that there are two companies willing to engage in the great work. The Legislature has done wisely in giving the Canadian Western the opportunity it wants to go on with the work. If it is not able within the time specified to commence operations, the Canadian Northern will take its place. The old company will, we trust, be in a position to comply with the requirements of the law. It has the first in the field, and it has a host of well-wishers. If, however, it is obliged by circumstances to step down and out, it will be both the desire and the interest of all who have the welfare of the province at heart to give what aid and encouragement they can to its successor, the Canadian Northern Railway Company. This is what the Legislature has done, and the community will be wise if it follows so good an example.

TO ASSIST RAILWAY BUILDING.

Contents of the Last Two Bills Laid Before the Legislature.

Bill No. 82, now before the Provincial Legislature, bears the title "An Act to Authorize the Granting of a certain Land Subsidy for and in Aid of the Kaslo and Slokan Railway," and provides for the granting to the company formed to build from the town of Kaslo to a point on near Slokan lake, 10,240 acres per mile, upon condition that construction be completed within the time specified in the Bill in the incorporation, and upon the further condition that the company furnish proper security for construction.

The company is to be incorporated in the Department of Public Works, and the course of the proposed railway, and the lands to be traversed, and the company is to be required to deposit with the Provincial Secretary security in the sum of \$25,000, not as a penalty, but as liquidated and ascertained damages to the province in case of default in the commencement and completion of the road. The land is to be granted in alternate blocks, and Crown grants may be issued as the work proceeds.

Section 7 provides that the lands granted shall not be subject to Provincial taxation until the expiration of ten years from the date of their selection by the company, or until alienated by the company, whichever event may happen first. The land, and the equipment, and buildings, yards, rolling stock, appliances, and other property shall not be subject to Provincial taxation until five years from the completion of the railway.

The bill to aid the Victoria and Sidney Railway company provides that the Government of British Columbia may guarantee the payment of interest, until maturity, at two per cent. per annum on bonds of the company issued to an amount not exceeding \$300,000, or its equivalent in sterling money, which bonds the company is by its charter authorized to issue, and the principal of such bonds to be payable not later than twenty-five years from their date, and any agreement entered into in order to carry out the provisions of the bill, and the interest upon such bonds and enforcing the payment thereof are authorized by the charter of the company and as shall be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, the Company being empowered to charge its undertaking and its tolls and property, real and personal, then existing and at any time thereafter acquired, with the repayment of all moneys to be paid by the Provincial government in respect of the guarantee hereby authorized, second and subject only to the charge given in favor of the bondholders under the Company's Act of Incorporation. Also that in case, at any time, an agreement is entered into by the Company with the Corporation of the city of Victoria, for the furnishing by the said Corporation of a similar guarantee of interest to a further amount of two per cent. upon the bonds of the Company up to three hundred thousand dollars, the Government may make such arrangements for permitting the said Corporation to take the benefit of the guarantee, and advance hereunder, and such provisions as to the manner of holding the same as to them seem fit.

PRIMROSE DAY.

TO THE EDITOR—Monday being Primrose Day brings to recollection an important action in the life of Disraeli when holding the position of Premier, viz. the purchase of four million of shares in the Isthmus of Suez Canal. At the time of the purchase, the coupons attached had been sold up to a certain date, now if that date was 1892 there would soon be according to the Imperial revenue annually a very important addition. Will you kindly give information upon the subject.

AN ENGLISHMAN.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Second Session of the Sixth Parliament.

FIFTIETH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, April 20. The Speaker took the chair at 2 o'clock, and announced that hereafter the proceedings of the House would be regulated by the new rules.

A POINT OF ORDER.

Mr. COTTON, rising to a point of order, asked the chair if the bill dealing with the Canadian Western and Canadian Northern Railway Companies, was or was not in order. It proposed to deal with a company incorporated on April 6, 1889, and whose charter contained as one provision a clause providing for the commencement of construction within three years. As yet nothing had been done, and—

The hon. Premier here requested the speaker to order the bill to be taken up, and the question until the legal members of the Cabinet were in their places.

The matter was allowed to remain in abeyance.

THE ESTIMATES.

On the motion to go into Supply, Mr. Brown proceeded to travel over a wide range of subjects previously discussed during the earlier days of the session. The intention of the Government was to bring the appointment of a crown solicitor, a salary of over \$2,000 per annum was briefly touched upon; if such an officer was needed, he (Mr. Brown) was sure to be found. He was in a good salary being paid, but he did not wish to see the legitimate work of the Attorney-General shifted to the Crown solicitor. The report of the hon. gentleman's speech, which occupied over an hour of the time of the House, was devoted to the discussion of the redistribution measures, promulgated by the Government, necessitating the step. He held the Government responsible for not having brought down the redistribution estimates during the session, and pronounced a review of the so-called Dominion census prepared by the Provincial Government, a collection of figures simply and solely intended to postpone "the evil day."

The Provincial Government's criticism of the Dominion enumeration he considered ill-adviced, inaccurate and uncalculated for, and thought the questions of the Ottawa authorities a proper one upon which to proceed with the promised redistribution.

Mr. KIRBY advocated the creation of a Minister of Railways, and the formation of a railway policy beneficial to the people, not as in the past, to the railway monopolists alone. He urged "justice for Kingston," and protested against the neglect of the Government to provide in the estimates for a new and much-needed school building in Nanaimo. An early redistribution of the seats in the House was urged, as "simple justice to the people."

Dr. MILNE rebuked the members of the Government for vacating their seats when he rose to discuss the questions of the day. To-day was a field day, and the remarks of all members of the House were, at least, entitled to respect. He pointed to the recent Dominion census as showing that British Columbia was retrograding under the present government, and instanced the Crofters scheme as an example of how the Government gave away thousands of acres of people's land, and the fact that they themselves admitted was at best an experiment. He referred to the rumor that two vacancies were likely to occur in the Cabinet, and asked the Government to take the House into their confidence in this respect.

Mr. SEMLIN also urged the government to give the House information in regard to the proposed Cabinet changes, as showing that the supplementary estimates had been withheld—that they were all ready and could have been presented prior to the Easter adjournment.

Mr. FORSTER devoted himself particularly to the practice of granting taxation exemptions for an indefinite period to railway companies; this was unjust, and the will of the people was that the exemptions should be abolished altogether. The numerous railway land grants recently made by the Government very much resembled a mighty potlatch given by some Indian chief, who felt his hold upon power becoming shaky and insecure.

Mr. McKENZIE followed, devoting himself chiefly to education matters, and charging that many of the schools were so infrequently inspected as to gain no benefit whatever from the official visitations. When he was Superintendent of Education, things were very different; he watched the teachers all the time, and would allow them to do nothing unless by his direction. Mr. KIRBY proposed to have the "little share of grumble" he claimed that the country districts had been grievously ill-treated in the distribution of appropriations. The Fraser valley was prospering, despite the neglect of the Government, and the property would be far more rapid and more pronounced if better roads, streets and bridges were provided. Taking the estimates themselves, he objected to the creation of such an officer as a Crown Solicitor, and to the expenditure of \$17,000 more on surveys. The money could much more advantageously be expended on the public roads.

Mr. SWORD also complained that his district had been unfairly treated in the distribution of appropriations. In immediate response to the motion that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair, he moved, seconded by Mr. PUNCH, that in the opinion of the House a fair system of representation should be introduced by the Government.

The amendment was lost on the following division:

YAS—Messrs. Kallie, Cotton, PUNCH, Kitchen, Brown, Keith, Milne, Beaven, Semlin, SWORD and McKenzie—11.

NAYS—Messrs. Horne, Smith, Baker, Nason, Fletcher, Hall, Anderson, Rogers, Booth, Hunter, Stodart, Elbert, Martin, Vernon, Davis, Turner, Pooley and Robson—18.

The motion that the House go into Committee of Supply was carried.

Mr. COTTON asked for the ruling of the Speaker upon the competency of the Government to introduce such a bill as that dealing with the Canadian Western and Canadian Northern Railway companies, reserving powers that had lapsed and granting a charter, which in reality no one had applied for to the House, to only body competent to give the charter.

Mr. SPEAKER promised a ruling in the evening, and the House went into committee.

On the motion to go into Supply, Mr. Brown proceeded to travel over a wide range of subjects previously discussed during the earlier days of the session. The intention of the Government was to bring the appointment of a crown solicitor, a salary of over \$2,000 per annum was briefly touched upon; if such an officer was needed, he (Mr. Brown) was sure to be found. He was in a good salary being paid, but he did not wish to see the legitimate work of the Attorney-General shifted to the Crown solicitor. The report of the hon. gentleman's speech, which occupied over an hour of the time of the House, was devoted to the discussion of the redistribution measures, promulgated by the Government, necessitating the step. He held the Government responsible for not having brought down the redistribution estimates during the session, and pronounced a review of the so-called Dominion census prepared by the Provincial Government, a collection of figures simply and solely intended to postpone "the evil day."

The Provincial Government's criticism of the Dominion enumeration he considered ill-adviced, inaccurate and uncalculated for, and thought the questions of the Ottawa authorities a proper one upon which to proceed with the promised redistribution.

Mr. KIRBY advocated the creation of a Minister of Railways, and the formation of a railway policy beneficial to the people, not as in the past, to the railway monopolists alone. He urged "justice for Kingston," and protested against the neglect of the Government to provide in the estimates for a new and much-needed school building in Nanaimo. An early redistribution of the seats in the House was urged, as "simple justice to the people."

Dr. MILNE rebuked the members of the Government for vacating their seats when he rose to discuss the questions of the day. To-day was a field day, and the remarks of all members of the House were, at least, entitled to respect. He pointed to the recent Dominion census as showing that British Columbia was retrograding under the present government, and instanced the Crofters scheme as an example of how the Government gave away thousands of acres of people's land, and the fact that they themselves admitted was at best an experiment. He referred to the rumor that two vacancies were likely to occur in the Cabinet, and asked the Government to take the House into their confidence in this respect.

Mr. SEMLIN also urged the government to give the House information in regard to the proposed Cabinet changes, as showing that the supplementary estimates had been withheld—that they were all ready and could have been presented prior to the Easter adjournment.

Mr. FORSTER devoted himself particularly to the practice of granting taxation exemptions for an indefinite period to railway companies; this was unjust, and the will of the people was that the exemptions should be abolished altogether. The numerous railway land grants recently made by the Government very much resembled a mighty potlatch given by some Indian chief, who felt his hold upon power becoming shaky and insecure.

Mr. McKENZIE followed, devoting himself chiefly to education matters, and charging that many of the schools were so infrequently inspected as to gain no benefit whatever from the official visitations. When he was Superintendent of Education, things were very different; he watched the teachers all the time, and would allow them to do nothing unless by his direction. Mr. KIRBY proposed to have the "little share of grumble" he claimed that the country districts had been grievously ill-treated in the distribution of appropriations.

The Fraser valley was prospering, despite the neglect of the Government, and the property would be far more rapid and more pronounced if better roads, streets and bridges were provided. Taking the estimates themselves, he objected to the creation of such an officer as a Crown Solicitor, and to the expenditure of \$17,000 more on surveys. The money could much more advantageously be expended on the public roads.

Mr. SWORD also complained that his district had been unfairly treated in the distribution of appropriations. In immediate response to the motion that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair, he moved, seconded by Mr. PUNCH, that in the opinion of the House a fair system of representation should be introduced by the Government.

The amendment was lost on the following division:

YAS—Messrs. Kallie, Cotton, PUNCH, Kitchen, Brown, Keith, Milne, Beaven, Semlin, SWORD and McKenzie—11.

NAYS—Messrs. Horne, Smith, Baker, Nason, Fletcher, Hall, Anderson, Rogers, Booth, Hunter, Stodart, Elbert, Martin, Vernon, Davis, Turner, Pooley and Robson—18.

The motion that the House go into Committee of Supply was carried.

Mr. COTTON asked for the ruling of the Speaker upon the competency of the Government to introduce such a bill as that dealing with the Canadian Western and Canadian Northern Railway companies, reserving powers that had lapsed and granting a charter, which in reality no one had applied for to the House, to only body competent to give the charter.

Mr. SPEAKER promised a ruling in the evening, and the House went into committee.

On the House resuming at 8 o'clock, Mr. MARTIN took the chair and the House returned to Committee of the Whole.

Objection was taken to vote 188A, \$1,000 for rebuilding the dam at Mission Creek, Okanagan.

HON. MR. VERNON explained that the

On the motion to go into Supply, Mr. Brown proceeded to travel over a wide range of subjects previously discussed during the earlier days of the session. The intention of the Government was to bring the appointment of a crown solicitor, a salary of over \$2,000 per annum was briefly touched upon; if such an officer was needed, he (Mr. Brown) was sure to be found. He was in a good salary being paid, but he did not wish to see the legitimate work of the Attorney-General shifted to the Crown solicitor. The report of the hon. gentleman's speech, which occupied over an hour of the time of the House, was devoted to the discussion of the redistribution measures, promulgated by the Government, necessitating the step. He held the Government responsible for not having brought down the redistribution estimates during the session, and pronounced a review of the so-called Dominion census prepared by the Provincial Government, a collection of figures simply and solely intended to postpone "the evil day."

The Provincial Government's criticism of the Dominion enumeration he considered ill-adviced, inaccurate and uncalculated for, and thought the questions of the Ottawa authorities a proper one upon which to proceed with the promised redistribution.

Mr. KIRBY advocated the creation of a Minister of Railways, and the formation of a railway policy beneficial to the people, not as in the past, to the railway monopolists alone. He urged "justice for Kingston," and protested against the neglect of the Government to provide in the estimates for a new and much-needed school building in Nanaimo. An early redistribution of the seats in the House was urged, as "simple justice to the people."

Dr. MILNE rebuked the members of the Government for vacating their seats when he rose to discuss the questions of the day. To-day