

THEY DARE NOT FACE COMMITTEE

(Continued from page 7.)

The House was not in session it might be very inconvenient, but this could be avoided by adopting the Ontario plan and making this provision a general one for all the time.

Both the attorney-general and the premier stuck to the one-year idea, saying that if there was need to extend the power for a longer time it could be done.

The bill was reported as amended. Dr. King (Granbrook) was chairman in committee.

A Debatable Measure.)

The fight against the Goat River Water, Power & Light Co. was resumed in committee of the whole. Dr. Kergin (Skenna) in the chair. The opposition was mainly carried on by Messrs. Williams, Jardine and Hawthornthwaite, who protested against the company being given such extensive powers as it got under the bill, and which enable it to embark in practically any line of industry, besides giving it water privileges over a large area.

J. A. Macdonald looked upon the bill as conflicting with the Water Act. He had never been in favor of giving a company which was being chartered for a certain purpose power to do everything under the sun.

After an hour or more had been spent on the bill without advancing it very far the committee rose until to-morrow.

The next bill taken up in committee, with John Jardine in the chair, developed opposition from Messrs. Williams and Hawthornthwaite.

This was an act to enable the Coldstream Estate Company and the White Valley Irrigation & Power Company, together with the Okanagan Valley concerns, to amalgamate their water rights. The attorney-general had a clause added, making it plain that no water recorded for agricultural or domestic purposes shall be used for power purposes.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite tried to get the committee to rise until some information had been obtained as to the powers of the two companies, and he challenged a vote on the final passage of the bill through committee, but failed. The bill was reported.

The bill to authorize the Pacific Coal Mines, Limited, to construct, rail-ways was read a third time and passed. A bill for the incorporation of the Vancouver & Northern Railway Company was given a second reading.

The bill to incorporate Westminster Hall, the Presbyterian theological college in Vancouver, was put through committee, H. G. Parson (Golden) in the chair.

The House rose at 12:25 a.m. The premier, in making the customary rail-roads for the next sitting, said "to-morrow" from force of habit, but it was quickly brought to his attention that this would mean Thursday, and he altered the form of the motion to suit this hour.

SELF DEFENCE PLEA IN CARMACK MURDER CASE

Colonel Cooper Tells His Story of How Shooting Took Place.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 24.—The usual big crowd gathered in the court house today to hear the cross-examination of Colonel Duncan Cooper on trial with his son Robin, and Sharp, for the slaying of former U. S. Senator Carmack. Attorney General Washington took up the line of questioning where he left off last night.

Col. Cooper said as they approached Seventh avenue Robin and Sharp were in front of him.

"Robin turned and urged me to hurry. The nervous grasp of his arm aroused my suspicions and intuitively I turned and saw Senator Carmack. Instantly I decided to go over and have a plain talk with Carmack to see if this affair which was worrying my friend, my children and myself, could not be stopped. I saw him speak to Mrs. Eastman. I said, 'Mr. Carmack.' He threw up his head as though he had not seen me and at once drew his revolver and stepped in front of me pulling the woman between us and stepping toward the curb. He had his pistol in his hand, and he passed in front of Mrs. Eastman. Mrs. Eastman became wildly excited and grabbed the old man who was with her. I had made no hostile movement."

"What did you say?" "Oh I think I said that it was a damned cowardly thing to get behind a woman with a pistol in his hand."

"Did you have a revolver out?" "Not at that time."

"Well, Senator Carmack got around the post, and at the same time Robin got around them. Then for the first time I saw Robin's revolver, and saw him shoot."

"Did you have your pistol out?" "Not until after Robin was shot; then I drew my gun but I saw Carmack was down."

"Did Mrs. Eastman make any accusations against you after the shooting?" "I know she said something, but my interest was centered on Robin, and I got only a vague impression of her as an excited woman talking."

The hearing is being continued.

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POINT OF ORDER ENDS DISCUSSION

ONE WAY TO STAVE OFF COAL PRICES INQUIRY

Jurors' Fees—The Medical Bill—Coal Mines Legislation.

Legislative Press Gallery, Feb. 24. Another late sitting resulted in several measures being advanced, and by the end of the week several of the bills now on the order paper will have disappeared from it to await the royal assent.

Twice to-day members found themselves up against the rule which forbids a member other than a minister introducing legislation which calls for any expenditure of public money. John Oliver, of Delta, found himself prevented from moving that a royal commission be appointed to inquire into the price charged consumers for coal, and Parker Williams, of Newcastle, sought to get a vote on a motion to increase the fees paid to jurymen.

There is considerable divergence of opinion as to whether it is a fair interpretation of the rule, especially as concerns a motion which simply requests the lieutenant-governor in council to appoint a commission. It is felt by many members that this is a restriction upon their rights which the framers of the rule hardly contemplated.

As regards Mr. Williams' motion it had been discussed by the attorney-general and no exception taken to it other than on the merits. It was left to the members for the Islands to raise the point of order, which was sustained. Mr. McPhillips frequently crosses verbal swords with the Socialist members—and not always with the balance of advantage on his side.

Night Sittings. At the outset of the sitting the premier moved that from Monday next to the end of the session there be two distinct sittings each day, one from 9 p. m. to 6 p. m., and the other from 8 p. m. to the hour of adjournment.

Stuart Henderson asked that the rules as to giving notice of motions and amendments should be applied to the sittings as if each was a different day, and to the premier agreed.

John Oliver entered a protest against an elastic time for the night sittings. Last night the House had been kept until half-past twelve, and members had to get out and return to the afternoon sitting after an hour for lunch. It was not in the interests of the province that the House should be kept sitting after midnight, for it was not conducive to good legislation. The night sitting should adjourn at 10 o'clock.

The premier was silent and the motion went through as it stood.

The Price of Coal. Mr. Oliver moved his resolution asking for the appointment of a royal commission on the price of coal, as follows:

"Whereas it would appear that the cost of coal to the consumer in the province of British Columbia is out of all proportion to the cost of production; and

"Whereas, owing to the abundance of the coal deposits in this province and the proximity of the sources, the supply to the market, the cost of coal to the consumer in British Columbia should be much less than at present is the case; and

"Whereas the excessive price of coal in British Columbia has the effect of retarding and preventing the establishment in this province of industries depending upon a fuel supply; and

"Whereas much of the product of the coal mines of the province is being exported to foreign markets and sold at a price which enables it to compete with coal from other countries in such foreign markets; and

"Whereas a belief exists that an understanding exists between the persons or corporations controlling or owning such coal mines to maintain the high prices now being charged to consumers in this province;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that an honorable member be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor by this House praying him to appoint royal commission to inquire into the following questions:

"1. Whether or not a combine or understanding exists amongst the coal producers, or any of them, of this province to establish and maintain prices charged for coal.

"2. Whether or not coal is being sold at a price below the cost of its production outside British Columbia for a less price than that sold for consumption in the province.

"3. Whether or not the prices charged by the producers, or any of them, for coal consumed in British Columbia is excessive.

"4. Whether or not the prices charged by the producers, or any of them, of this province to establish and maintain prices charged for coal.

were taken for the purpose of ensuring to the people of British Columbia coal at a more favorable price than now. The member for Delta was prompted by good motives but would stick to a long routine to obtain his end. The proper routine was to secure a federal investigation so as to obtain benefit for the whole country, not only British Columbia but Alberta as well. If Mr. Oliver brought in a resolution calling on the federal government to investigate, the government side of the House would support him. But this motion involved public expenditure, whether \$10 or \$10,000 did not matter, and it was therefore not competent for a private member to make it.

On the point of order Mr. Oliver pointed out that as far back as 1902, when Smith Curtis moved for a committee to inquire into certain alleged cases, C. W. Clifford and Price Ellison moved in amendment that the lieutenant-governor be asked to appoint a royal commission. No objection was then made to the proposal, being adopted and members to-day in the House—Price Ellison, W. H. Hayward and Thomas Gifford—voted for the amendment.

The speaker ruled that the hon. gentleman could not go into the question of who voted for it.

"Well, I don't want to bring up any unpleasant memories to these hon. gentlemen," said Mr. Oliver.

"The hon. gentleman is still continuing along the same line," the speaker remarked.

"Probably I would be in order if I set down the member for Delta on the ground that he has set down his own Hon. F. J. Fulton cited a ruling of Mr. Speaker Booth in 1900, on a motion for a royal commission on irrigation matters, that it was out of order as involving an expenditure of public money.

"I do not see, Mr. Speaker, why a royal commission is on any different basis as to the expenditure of public money than is a select committee of this House," Mr. Macdonald said.

This matter was referred to a select committee there might be large expenditures for witnesses, stenographers and salaries. There is no question as to our right to have this done by a committee, and I cannot see what different position we stand in as regards a motion for an inquiry by royal commission."

Mr. Oliver moved the adjournment of the debate to give the speaker time to look into the matter.

High Jurors' Fees. A demand for an increase in the fees for jurymen from \$2 a day to \$3 was demanded by Parker Williams in committee on the amendment to the Jurors' Act during the evening. Mr. Williams considered the province was in a position to deal more generously with the men who did their duty as jurors.

The attorney-general refused the request, claiming that the bill had not yet arrived to raise the fee, especially as there was a great increase in crime in the province and more jury trials were made necessary. At one time juries were not paid at all, but the member for Nanaimo that medicine was becoming more of a matter of dietary treatment, hygiene and fever drugs, which was but another reason why it was necessary to keep juries out.

These men used drugs freely and without intelligence, and were a positive source of danger to the public.

The bill passed its second reading.

Coal Mining Bills. Three government bills, dealing with coal mines, were passed through the committee stage, the chairman, being respectively, W. R. Ross, G. R. Naden and William Manson.

The chief provision of the amendments to the Coal Mines Regulation Act dealt with the examination of miners who issue certificates of competency to miners. These boards are now appointed for each colliery, but by giving the council power small collieries, by through possible, as the trouble and expense. The boards will consist of one appointee of the government, one, with two alternates, named by the operators, and one, with two alternates, elected by the men actually working in the mine.

J. H. Hawthornthwaite objected to the provision that the representatives of the men must be actually working in the colliery. He argued that this had to be a hard spell and leave him working in the mine.

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had an amendment on the paper fixing May 1, 1910, as the date but did not press it.

Mr. Macdonald thought the notice was not long enough to enable merchants to get their orders in time to wear out present vehicles. The province was getting the advantage of a saving on the maintenance of roads and should have consideration for the people who would be affected during the winter.

The minister of public works did not think the bill would work a hardship to anyone.

The commissioner of lands instanced the case of the regulation, west of the Cascades, when less notice was given of a more drastic measure, he said. In this case merchants and freighters had had ample notice through the newspapers and would have been months before the bill came into effect.

Mr. Macdonald said it was a very poor argument to say that such and such had been done in another case. Justice might have been done in the case cited. If he had known that generous notice was not to be given he would have proposed that compensation be made to the people affected.

Mr. Oliver suggested that the act might be brought into force, but not before January 1st next, by proclamation of the lieutenant-governor in council.

"Or the attorney-general in council," Mr. Williams thought more like it.

The hon. gentleman adopted the bill and was reported for final disposal.

The Medical Act. J. H. Hawthornthwaite, on the second reading of the medical bill, declared that any attack upon that profession would be entirely unwarranted by the facts. Every one who ever did anything to disgrace their profession, while the overwhelming body were a credit to the community. By their actions, conduct and acts of self-sacrifice, and even heroism they had endeared themselves to the general public, and no one but could recall examples. But this being so that profession should not have come to the legislature with a request for such wide powers as the bill asked. It was not wise to place too much power in the hands of even the most high-minded. There was no question that the public should be protected against quacks, but the medical profession had ample protection under their present act.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite read from medical works to back up an argument that medicine is not an exact science by expressions of medical opinion. He doubted that Dr. Alexey or Harvey, or any other of the great names in medicine would have been able to pass an examination for admission to practice in British Columbia. While not particularly taken with the ideas of Christian Scientists, by through strange that a Christian legislature in a Christian land should try to prevent any people carrying on the work of healing as practised by the carpenter of Nazareth.

He expressed satisfaction that by proposal, the bill would be greatly modified as regarded several points.

Dr. Kergin (Skenna) laid stress on the desire to protect the public. He agreed to any amendments, as the member for Nanaimo that medicine was becoming more of a matter of dietary treatment, hygiene and fever drugs, which was but another reason why it was necessary to keep juries out.

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Westminster Hall stands for third reading.

Questions Answered. The following questions have been answered: Mr. Jardine asked: "1. What steps have been taken to ascertain if the Grand Trunk Pacific Town and Development Co., Ltd., are carrying out their contract with the province, as set out in section 14 of schedule, chapter 19, statutes 1938?"

"2. What supplies have been bought by either company—(a) Within the province? (b) Without the province?"

"3. What steps have been taken to ascertain if said companies are carrying out their agreement, as set out in section 15 of said schedule?"

"4. What rate of wages are either company, or their contractors, paying the following mechanics and laborers: Foreman carpenters and carpenters; foremen employed and laborers known as rockmen; foremen employed as pick and shoveler men? What number of hours constitute a day's labor? Are wages paid monthly or weekly?"

The Minister of Public Works replied: "1. No specific steps, but the government agent at Prince Rupert is apprised of the requirements of such contract, and the government stands ready to inquire into any complaint that may be brought to its attention as to the non-fulfillment of the terms of section 14."

"2. This information is not at present available."

"3. The government agent at Prince Rupert has been communicated with, with a view to ascertaining if the companies are carrying out their agreement. The government stands prepared to inquire into any complaint that may be brought to its attention as to the non-fulfillment of the terms of section 15."

"4. Foreman carpenters, 60 cents per hour; carpenters, 40 to 50 cents per hour; rock foremen and foremen laborers, \$3, \$4 and \$4.50 per day; also \$7 to \$10 per month and board; rockmen, \$2.75 to \$3 per day. Ten hours constitute a day's labor. Wages paid monthly."

Mr. Oliver asked: "1. How many S. A. land grants are there that the holders thereof did not receive the grants of land called for by same?"

"2. How many of said S. A. grants were tendered for land on Kelen Island prior to an agreement with the G. T. Pacific Railway?"

"3. Have these S. A. land grant holders received anything for their S. A. land grants?"

"4. Is it the intention of the government to compensate these applicants for loss of their S. A. land grants?"

The Commissioner of Lands replied: "1. Twenty-eight entitled to select made no selection."

"2. Fifteen."

"3. Refused for the reason that the lands applied for were reserved for sale or pre-emption on the 21st October, 1901. Five of these applicants made other selections."

"4. No."

"5. The records in the department do not show that the question of compensation has been raised."

WEEKLY WEATHER REPORT. Victoria Meteorological Office, February 17th to 23rd, 1939.

Now Is the Season for Fish WE HAVE IT IN FRESH DAILY KIPPERED HERRING, 2 lbs. for 25c SMOKED HALIBUT, 2 lbs. for 35c FINNAN HADDIE, 2 lbs. for 25c SMOKED SALMON, per lb. 20c

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ROAD WORK IN SOUTH COWICHAN DISTRICT Ratepayers Anxious to Have Authorities Look Into Matter. Cowichan Station, Feb. 24.—An interesting road meeting was held on Saturday night in the South Cowichan hall to inquire into the manner in which road repairing is carried on in Reid's division of that district, and to take steps to improve the present system.

GERMAN AERIAL AIRSHIPS T Army Autho ing With Zepp Berlin, March ship of the futu small cannon The army auth quarters through perimenting alon been virtually d loons of the rig with cannon of chine guns. The danger re and the escape o has been practi system of adjust which are kept INUGURATIO Ceremony at Thursday Washington, I Howard Taft in Thursday are o us commissions that the cerem the most brillia any previous mation is made al visitors who will and corner of t be a record brea The work o honor, one of the tures of the inat finishing touches point of the fact color and de he said to culpi this direction, T pension office in auguration, ball morning. The o attend this bill be unsurpassed, spent \$20,000 for RESULTS Notorious Bandit a Province Ves, Morocco, as appointed a bandit, governor Djebala, Raisuli honor the ranso Sir Harry Maclea Premier, a prisoner in 1907 promises to fulfil honestly and peans. LOAD LINE New Yorker Co Companies Regi the Gr New York, Mar ton dispatch to the Prime, insurance w in London with representing ship Lakes, valued at for the purpose of big insurance age ain on the subje nes. SENTENCED R FOR ATTEM Condemned R Have Plotte Dowager St. Petersburg, named Avatnoth v by a court martial bechnical charge kth an officer an Avatnoth was arre November a fev train bearing the I Russia passed thro Copenhagen to St. being suspiciously was made that he plot against the In the court proc mention of a coas AMERICAN BOV Pittsburg, Pa. Annual toumnaer Bowling Congress Juense Gardn h from all parts of bottles aspects of ready are being v for a number of th to be strongly fo be important fo Buffalo, Detroit, holding for the h