

Day of Routine In Legislature

Premier Considering Victoria's
Patriotic Offer—Two Mem-
bers' Isolation.

Grand Jurors on Pay List—In-
sane Asylum Trouble—
Vancouver Franchises.

Members of the legislature did not seem in a hurry to begin their week's labor. It was getting on for a quarter past two yesterday before the Speaker could take the chair and a house was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Wilson.

PETITIONS.

Mr. J. M. Martin presented a petition from certain companies around Rossland protesting against the eight-hour law. Messrs. Prentice and Wells presented petitions with regard to the proposed consolidation of Vancouver's charter act and amending acts. Their nature is illustrated by the following:

From the B.C. Electric Railway Company, Limited, of the city of Vancouver, in the province of British Columbia, humbly sheweth:

1. That your petitioner is an incorporated company, in corporate in England under the Companies' Act, 1862-1893 (Imperial), and is duly licensed to carry on business in the province of British Columbia.

2. That your petitioner is the successor in title of the Vancouver Street Railway Company, Limited Liability, which said company was by act of the Legislature of British Columbia, 53 Victoria, chapter 51, amalgamated with the Vancouver Electric Illuminating Company, under the name of the Vancouver Electric Railway and Light Company.

3. The said rights, privileges, and franchises of the Vancouver Electric Railway and Light Company, and by an act of the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia, 50 Victoria, chapter 55, the acquisition of the said Consolidated Railway and Light Company of the said rights, privileges and franchises were confirmed and the same were vested in the said Consolidated Railway and Light Company, and were acquired by purchase from the trustees for debenture holders of the said Consolidated Railway and Light Company, April, A.D. 1897.

4. At the time your petitioner acquired the said rights, privileges and franchises the Vancouver Incorporation Act contained the following clause which protected your petitioner in the business of the said company, chapter 68, of 58 Victoria (1894):

"In case there be any gas, electric lighting, tramway, or water company incorporated and carrying on their business within the limits of the said city, the council shall have power to acquire the same by purchase, or by any other manner exercise the powers, conferred by the five preceding sections until such company shall have been communicated to such company or companies."

5. That your petitions is now under and by virtue of the said rights, powers, privileges and franchises acquired by your petitioner, a system of street railways and carrying on the business of electric lighting in the city of Vancouver, and that the capital stock of your petitioner amounts to \$570,000 sterling, £120,000 sterling preference shares, and £200,000 sterling ordinary shares (the said shares are fully paid up) and debentures charged upon the undertaking of your petitioner to the extent of £200,000 sterling.

6. Your petitioner since so acquiring the said undertaking and acting upon the faith of the rights, privileges and franchises so acquired, they spent large sums of money, to wit, not less than \$450,000, in permanent improvements to their lighting and street railway plant in the city of Vancouver.

7. That the said capital stock is divided amongst a large number of shareholders and debenture holders, the majority of them living in England.

8. That the act of the incorporation of the city of Vancouver has been presented to your honorable body praying that an act may be passed revising, consolidating and amending the incorporation act of the said city of Vancouver, being 49 Victoria, chapter 22 of the Statutes of British Columbia, and an act has been brought down to your honorable house styled, An Act to revise and consolidate the Vancouver Incorporation Act.

9. That the said act does not contain such a clause as that set out in paragraph 4 nor any other clause which protect your petitioner's rights in this respect.

10. That the said act as brought down and read a first time prejudicial affects the rights, privileges and franchises of your petitioner.

11. The said act so brought down by sub-section 112 empowers the corporation of the city of Vancouver from time to time to lease, alter and repeal by-law for certain purposes therein enumerated, and your petitioner company objects to the following sub-sections of said section 112:

Sub-section 1, which authorizes the acquiring, constructing, etc., of electric lights;

Sub-section 2, so far as it authorizes the city to construct, operate and maintain street railways;

Sub-section 3, for constructing, operating, etc., railway and tramway;

Sub-section 4, which authorizes the city to compel all wires to be placed underground;

Sub-section 5, for assessing any street railway company using the streets to pay the costs of watering the streets;

Sub-section 6, for assessing any street railway company using the streets to pay the costs of watering the streets;

Sub-section 7, for assessing any street railway company using the streets to pay the costs of watering the streets;

Sub-section 8, so far as it authorizes the city to supply light to the citizens;

Sub-section 9, so far as it authorizes the city to regulate and control railway companies within the city.

Sub-section 10, which authorizes the city to regulate and control railway companies within the city.

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CARPETS, RUGS, ART SQUARES

We show 10
patterns to
any other
stores one.

UP-TO-DATE GOODS
IN EVERY LINE.

WEILER BROS., Victoria, B. C.

The protection of trustees came up for consideration next in committee, with Mr. Nell in the chair. He had a strong objection to Mr. Helmecken's section that the act should be operative at the time of its passage. What else would it be? He asked. As soon as the bill was assented to it would become law, so the section was absurd. Why then a doubt upon it by any such section? He remarked.

The general member for Helmecken did not mind "feeling up" the bill. The amendment was withdrawn.

The Attorney-General proposed a new section to the effect that the act should not affect any litigation pending at the time of the coming into force of the act. Mr. Martin did not think that went quite far enough, but letting it pass he went into clause two, which was carried without a division.

He objected to the words in that section "whether the transaction alleged to be a breach of trust occurred before or after the coming into force of the act."

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Victoria shall undertake to raise and equip 60 men.

"Resolved that these resolutions be communicated to the provincial government, with the request that they be transmitted to the Dominion government forthwith, and also to the cities and municipalities throughout the province, with a request for their co-operation."

At the conclusion of their reading by the Premier there was a chorus of "Hear, hear."

Mr. Helmecken—"That is all right." Mr. Helmecken—"Will the Premier give us his views as to the resolutions?"

Mr. Helmecken—"I asked Mayor Hayward to give me until to-morrow morning or later this evening to reply. I am not in a position to answer favorably at this moment."

The house rose at 5 p.m.

GALLERY NOTES.

Mr. Joseph Martin has given notice of a want of confidence motion as follows: "That this house disapprove of the action of the government in failing to take such steps as would allow Mr. Theodore Laughton and his associates to proceed with the construction and operation of a saw mill industry on Deadman's Island, in Burrard Inlet."

The usual notice of motion precedent to the budget has been given by the Finance Minister, as follows: To move, "That the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the present session be taken into consideration on Monday next."

There are two new government bills that the Finance Minister will father. The first is to amend the New Westminster Relief Act, 1899, the other will amend the Revenue Tax Act.

Notice has at last been given by the Premier of the bill to amend the Public Schools Act.

It is rumored that the government will drop the Coal Mines Regulation bill, the opposition to it being very marked. Its provisions are considered to be too drastic.

LOCAL NEWS.

"From Natural Causes."—The inquest on the death of the old man William Frost, who was found dead in his cabin on the steamship "The Scotia" on Saturday, resulted in a verdict of death from natural causes.

Benefit Concert.—The Daughters of St. George at a meeting held last night decided to give a grand patriotic concert in the near future for the benefit of the British soldiers now serving in South Africa.

Paper for Princeton.—The Similkameen Star is the name of a paper about to be started at Princeton by Mr. B. E. Anderson, one of the Princeton graduates who are to meet the board of trade this evening.

Death Case Early.—Eddie Partridge, a native of Westmeath, Ireland, died on Sunday at the residence of Mr. Neil Cunningham, Victoria, at 1.15 this morning from pneumonia.

Mr. Cunningham's residence, Robert street, and at 10 at St. Andrew's R.C. cathedral.

Laid at Rest.—Rev. R. Hughes officiated at the funeral of Sunday of the late Richard Wilson, killed at Russell's station last week. There was a large attendance of friends, and the funeral was a most impressive one.

Mr. Semlin, in reply to Mr. McBride, did not quite know the order in which the two resolutions were presented. He moved up after consultation with the leader of the opposition. He hardly saw how they could do so without derailing the order in which they were appointed.

Col. Baker noted it was the privilege of the Premier to suggest an addition. Mr. Semlin said he was perfectly aware of that, but it was a question of his own private opinion. The Premier and opposition members must be maintained. The members of the government side were not to be moved.

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