

Provincial Legislature

Premier Replies to Critics Against Dyking Assessment Act.

Public Question Entitled to Unprejudiced Consideration of Legislature.

The Coal Mines Regulation Act and Supreme Court Bill in Committee.

Thursday, March 23.—The House assembled at 2 o'clock, and after the customary exercises, the following was the order of business:

**Petitions.**—A number of petitions presented on the previous day asking for amendments to the Placer Act were received in committee.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite's reconstructed bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act was read a second time. The measure is designed to render effective the provisions of the act limiting the employment of persons underground to eight hours a day. The bill, as first introduced by the member for Nanaimo, provided for the imposition of penalties for infringement of the eight-hour law by workmen or employer. The reconstructed bill simply provides, or seeks to provide, that the penalties attached to the general act shall apply, as to which, according to the preamble of the act, "doubts have been expressed."

The bill was reported complete with amendments calculated to make its purpose less unobscured by its construction, following discussion by Mr. J. A. Macdonald, Mr. McInnes and others.

The bill to amend the Supreme Court Act, providing that security for costs on appeal shall not exceed \$200, was again committed to the committee. At present the question of such security is in the discretion of the judge, and the attorney-general recorded an opinion that it should remain.

Mr. Bowser took a similar view, observing that in Ontario the amount required for security on appeal was \$500, or rather \$400, as he took from the correction of the law, the amount of the proposal to limit the security as provided in the bill. He moved that the committee rise, in other words, asked for an expression of opinion from the House on the proposition that the measure should be thrown out.

Mr. Brown argued that it was better that the amount which litigants must pay, as initial costs of appeal, should be fixed in the law, so that they would know just what security they must give in order to have their cases heard in the higher court.

Mr. Bowser's motion was put, and lost on a show of hands, 13 to 15.

Mr. McInnes proposed to increase the deposit to \$500. He contended that this was the amount required on appeal to the Supreme court of Canada, and that the expense of an appeal to the Supreme court of British Columbia was just as high.

Mr. Macdonald disputed this and opposed the amendment.

The motion was put and carried on a show of hands, but a new vote being taken on the ground that the bill had not been read, it was lost.

The bill was reported complete with amendment.

**Second Readings.**—The bill to amend the Dentistry Consolidation Act, read a second time, on motion of Mr. Bowser. It authorizes the Dental Society to collect an annual fee of five dollars to meet certain expenses connected with the functions of that organization.

The Workmen's Compensation Act passed second reading, also an amendment to the British Columbia Railway Act.

The bill to amend the Coal Tax Act passed the committee stage; also the bill to amend the Horticultural Board Act.

**Dyking Act.**—Mr. McBride continued the debate on the Dyking Act. He resented the insinuation of critics that in framing the Dyking Act the government was in league with land speculators. Such was not the case. He made reference to the numerous former members of the House of Commons and the House of Assembly who were capable of interpretation as an argument that districts benefited should pay for the dyking work, and, sincerely, he argued, was manifest in the stand taken with respect to the bill by the members for Chilliwack and Delta. In one breath, the gentlemen protesting against the expenditures on dyking works, in the next breath they encourage the wisdom of the dyking takings. Mr. Munro, in fact, had expressed appreciation of what the Tur-ner government had done in this regard. The true intent of the two opinions, namely, the desire to subject an assent to the wisdom of the political action in order to score advantage from a party point of view. The suggestion that discrimination should have been made in the bill in favor of certain settlers of the poorer class was impracticable. To devise any measure which would make the bill in favor of certain classes, in this respect which would naturally arise, would be an impossible task, and this was well known to members opposite who sought, on an hypothesis, to attach the government with reproach. In the Fraser valley during the past seven years about six million dollars had been expended in public works, and this was a matter properly entitled to consideration in the discussion of its obligations to the country.

Close scrutiny of the assertion that land speculators were specially favored by the bill, was not favorable to that contention. The land owners assuming to be content in their statements were far from being speculators, in the sense conveyed. They were men who days gone by had manifested their faith in the lands of the Fraser valley, and who, through long, profitless years, had maintained their property and paid the taxes thereon. Some of them had lost thousands of dollars through their investments, and others had expended heavily for very little return. In connection he mentioned the name of Mr. Gallagher, of Matsqui, who had made considerable losses, and whose lands, subsequently subdivided and sold, had attracted many settlers to make homes in the country. He also mentioned Mr. C. B. Seward, who had expended \$75,000 in dyke construction in that district in order to make the lands susceptible to cultivation; Mr. Carey, mayor of New Westminster, who had invested all his savings, and was forced to mortgage his holdings and finally sell them out; Mr. Donald McLean, a settler of 45 years residence in the country, and others. Were these men not entitled to consideration? If the

list of land owners in the valley were submitted to an impartial tribunal, would be found that the term "land speculator" would not convey the sense the word in criticisms passed in reference thereto.

The premier observed that it had cost the country \$1,030,000 to settle the dyking bill, and under the measure the province would assume \$360,000 of this amount. In other words, other classes in the country, including farmers in districts less favored by nature, must contribute the deficiency. The premier remarked that the member for Chilliwack had questioned the expenditures in connection with the dyking works, and yet had supported an extra vote of \$100,000 in 1902 to complete the dyke in the Chilliwack district.

Mr. Munro said he had directed no complaint against this appropriation. His point was that in adjusting the assessments a proper equilibrium was not maintained.

The premier argued that, in view of the benefits which had accrued from the construction of the dykes, the complaints of the people of Chilliwack should be tempered with moderation. He recalled the conditions which obtained in 1902, owing to prevailing high waters, in the Fraser valley, and attributed a statement to Mr. Munro that the valley in 1894, and the country of the country. He asked the member for Chilliwack if this was the case.

Mr. Munro said he was not prepared to make off-hand statements. The premier recounted his own observations of the valley in 1894, and the losses which had been occasioned through the inundation of large tracts of land, and the destruction of property thereon. He mentioned a great deal of expenditure in connection with dyking in Coquitlam, Pitt Meadows and Agassiz. He was occasioned by this experience, and there was some reason in the losses sustained by the settlers there at that time, for extending the dyking to the entire valley. The government was only giving them some compensation for expenditures rendered necessary through the floods of 1894.

In this connection he discussed the adjustment as it bore upon the various districts, showing that in the case of Matsqui the assessment of the dyke was only \$10,000 more than the value placed upon it by the people themselves. A great deal of the land in the district was unfit for cultivation, and the installation of a drainage system, and when this work was done the cost per acre would be much larger in that section. Yet the dyking charge against Maple Ridge was \$140, while in Chilliwack, one of the most fertile regions on the continent, the charge per acre was only 70 cents. He thought that fair consideration of these things would relieve the government of some of the criticism to which it had been subjected in connection with the present bill.

The present legislature, he pointed out, was not responsible for the obligations attaching to these dyking works. The expenditures were spread over a long period of years, and as the case might be, by past governments. As to expenditures in connection with dyke inspection referred to by Mr. Munro, he took the ground that the cost of a floating dam should have been reported by his observations to the government. Before the bill passed its final stage it was the government's intention to provide for the cost of such inspections to the House, which, he hoped, would make some of its conditions under the circumstances.

Mr. Hawthorthwaite moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald unclaimed moneys deposited in the treasury of the province passed second reading.

**Notes.**—In the proceedings of the House reference is made to a bill relating to unclaimed moneys deposited in the treasury of the province.

This act authorizes the government to write off liabilities arising from the passing into their possession in the past thirty or forty years, which had been paid into court in connection with any claim.

These sums are of varying size, ranging from very small amounts up to several hundred dollars. The idea is to convert to the use of the province such moneys which have lain unclaimed for ten years from the date of deposit into court, and which are not claimed by the owner.

In case of claimants subsequently turning up and proving their title, provision is made for repayment out of the public funds.

**NO DIVORCE FOR BUFFALO BILL.**—Trial Judge Roundly Scores the Picture of a Turquoise William.

Sheridan, Wyo., March 23.—Colonel William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) today filed suit for divorce from Louisa Cody, Judge Scott, of the District court, deciding that the charges of adultery on the part of Mrs. Cody to her husband, and other allegations, had not been proven. Judge Scott asserted that the testimony given by Mrs. Cody had always been a good mother and a fond and indulgent wife. In his opinion Judge Scott said that the first cause of action in this case is the charge of poisoning on December 15. The evidence wholly fails to support this issue, but shows that Mrs. Cody was trying to change the plaintiff from a state of intoxication and administered, not poison, but remedies which she deemed beneficial to him. His inability to speak on this occasion did not come from these remedies, but came from his extensive use of intoxicants at the banquet board.

Judge Scott also found there was no evidence that she had ever threatened the plaintiff, and that when attending the funeral of her daughter, Arta, at Rochester, N. Y., in February, 1904, she offered a permanent reconciliation, and no answer ever came to this.

**Love's Labor Lost.**—She was an over-indulgent mother and who always took pride in his success and always looked forward to his home-coming and made great preparations to receive him," said Judge Scott.

"She entertained his guests with cordiality. She did not use profane language, and the poisoning of his dogs was purely accidental. She never spoke disrespectfully of him to his friends or relatives. In her home she has a large number of children, and her husband's room she has his portrait done by a famous painter.

"In return for this wifely devotion the plaintiff has been cruel to her and heaped indignities upon her."

**CHAMBERLAIN AND BALFOUR.**—Fiscal Question Causes Open Declaration of Hostilities.

London, March 23.—Open war has been declared between Joseph Chamberlain and Mr. Balfour over the fiscal question. Despite the attitude of Mr. Balfour toward the government in refusing to sanction an effort to compel Lord Huch Cecil to resign the parliamentary seat for Greenwhich, Mr. Chamberlain has written a letter claiming that he has a majority of the Unionists with him and approving of the selection of a pro-Unionist candidate to contest Lord Huch Cecil's seat at the next general election.

TURBINE STEAMER VICTORIAN.

Allan Line's New Packet Gets Great Send-off at Liverpool.

Liverpool, March 23.—The Allan line turbine steamer Victorian was bidden an enthusiastic farewell when she started on her maiden voyage to Montreal today. Great numbers of people cheered her. The Victorian carries about 1500 passengers, including a number of engineering experts.

**PRIMARY EDUCATION.**—Elaborate Plans Maturing in Russia for a New Departure.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—One of the best signs of the times is announced today, that in a fortnight the ministry of public instruction will undertake the elaboration of a plan for a compulsory system of primary education. Representatives of the schools in the principal cities are invited to participate in the drawing up of the plan.

**FRENCH MEET GREEKS.**—Outbreak Took Place Recently Between Soldiers and Marines.

Marseilles, March 23.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Yangtze, which arrived here today, reports that when she touched at Andros, Island of Crete, recently a serious outbreak occurred between 15 French soldiers and twenty Greek marines, the fight lasting an hour and six Greeks and two Frenchmen being killed. An investigation is in progress, but no political significance is attached to the affair.

Linevitch Meets Staff

New Russian Commander in Chief Received His Subordinates.

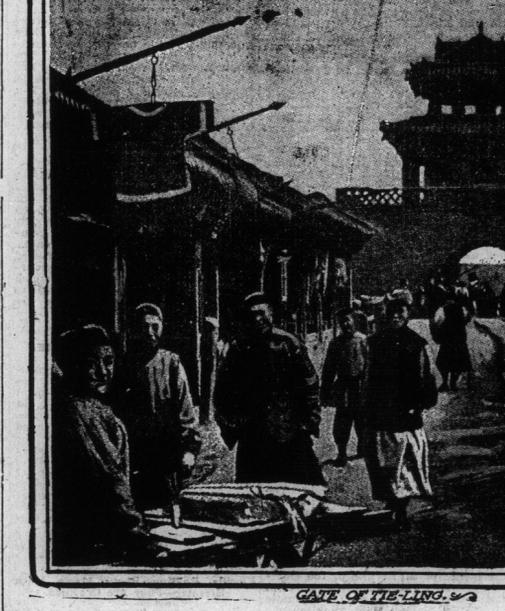
Persistent Reports of a Japanese Turning Movement Still Continue.

Two Hundred Thousand Reinforcements Needed to Meet Japanese.

UNSHU PASS, March 23.—Gen. Linevitch, the new commander-in-chief of the army, today received the members of his staff.

Reports persist of Japanese turning movements on both flanks of the Russo-Chinese army. Chinese state that the Japanese have recruited many Chinese bandits, and probably they are now able to count a superiority in cavalry as well as in infantry.

The branch of the Russo-Chinese bank has removed to Harbin, after an attack



NEW YORK POOL SELLER'S HAPPY IDEA

Hire Steamboat and Carry on Business Outside Three Mile Limit.

New York, March 23.—If the persons who have chartered the Mount Desert boat for a floating gambling resort outside the state's jurisdiction as has been reported, they will meet with no opposition from the authorities. This telegram, by the Mount Desert boat, which is now on its way to the island, is reported to have been sent to the New York police department, and it is said that the boat will be used for the purpose of gambling.

**Retire Back of Harbin.**—The Russian front parallel to the Chinese Eastern Railway is still far from Siberia. The Russian front parallel to the Chinese Eastern Railway is still far from Siberia. The Russian front parallel to the Chinese Eastern Railway is still far from Siberia.

**BULLYING THE TURK.**—Germany Adopts Strenuous Business Methods at Constantinople.

Paris, March 23.—The Temps this afternoon printed a despatch from Constantinople announcing that the German ambassador has presented a note to the Porte, which is said to be a veto upon Turkey joining the Entente for arms in France with menaces of serious consequences if the note is disregarded. The Ottoman cabinet, it is added, is seriously embarrassed and indignant at the dictatorial conditions of Germany. The French ambassador continues the negotiations for the purpose of securing a large arm order for France.

**AFTER THE BEEF TRUST.**—Chicago, March 23.—R. C. Howe, general manager of the Armour packing plant at Omaha, was a witness today before the federal grand jury investigating the alleged beef trust. Three hundred witnesses have been called, but not more than fifty it is said will be asked to testify.

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PEASANTS MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD

The Troops Fire Into Crowd of Polish Peasants and Fifty Fall.

Warsaw, March 23.—The shooting of peasants at Lamenta has aroused intense excitement in the whole district. The action of the authorities in shooting down unarmed peasants is angrily criticized, and a deputation of residents of Kutnow is proceeding toward Warsaw to lay complaints before the governor-general.

**RUSSIA'S REVERSES REVIEWED.**—Correspondent of St. Petersburg Paper Criticizes Military Authorities.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—(12:15 p.m.)—The Novoye Vremya today will publish a remarkable despatch from a correspondent in the field, who, with the bitter taste of defeat still on his palate, discusses the causes of the Russian reverses and contrasts the spirit with which Russia and Japan are conducting the war, and the serious and disastrous element arraigns the elements in Russia who are nourishing their propaganda on the Russian front.

**FLOODS AT EASTERN CITIES.**—Pomeroy, Ohio, March 23.—The high water has caused serious damage to the railroad and street car service here. The water has entered buildings along the river front, and the merchants will be forced to move out. The river is rising two inches an hour.

**PEACE IS NOW PROBABLE.**—Advocates of Pacific Overtures in Russia Gain Confidence.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—The ministers and supporters of the court who advocate the submission of pacific proposals to Japan, as previously set forth in these despatches, so far as to ascertain whether an honorable basis for peace is possible, believe they have carried the day, and the Associated Press here has heard from on this subject.

**PLAGUE RAVAGES INDIA.**—Scientific Investigation to Be Made of Feasible Loss of Life.

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A NEW NIAGARA BRIDGE.

Company Incorporated for Structure Across the Falls.

Albany, N. Y., March 23.—The Niagara Frontier Bridge Co. is incorporated by a bill introduced in the assembly today to construct a bridge across the Niagara river between Niagara Falls and Lewiston for electric and steam cars, vehicles and pedestrians.

**TRIBUTE TO JOURNALISM.**—Russian Finance Minister Speaks "Thunderer's" Good Opinion.

London, March 23.—Referring to statements that have appeared in the London Times reflecting on Russia's financial position, M. Kokovtsov, the Russian finance minister, yesterday telegraphed to the editor of the Times suggesting that he come to St. Petersburg with experts and they could personally inspect and verify the gold reserves in the Russian state bank.

**PEARY'S NEW SHIP LAUNCHED.**—"Roosevelt" Designed to Stand Strenuous Life in the Arctic.

Bucksport, Maine, March 23.—Commander Robert E. Peary's Arctic exploration ship was launched here today. She was christened the Roosevelt by Mrs. Peary. The Peary Arctic Club, New York furnished the funds for construction. She was designed by Naval Architect Wm. E. Winsout of New York and is considered the most powerful and best equipped craft for combating the Arctic ice ever built.

**ROJSTVENSKY'S SQUADRON.**—Movements of Second Pacific Fleet Are Unknown.

London, March 24.—No further news has been received here throwing light on the movements of the Russian second Pacific squadron. The fleet is reported to be at Port Louis during the night of March 10 a Russian torpedo boat preceding a squadron of warships had been sighted by a vessel arriving there from the Cape. It is too vague to afford basis for judgment, but if the fleet seen was Vice-Admiral Rojstvensky's squadron, it is already within some 500 miles of Colombia and hence must have left Nossi Be and other ports than has been supposed.

**INRUSH OF SETTLERS.**—Scores Arriving Daily in Spaulumcheon to Engage in Orchardng.

Armstrong, B. C., March 23.—(Special.)—August Schubert, an experienced settler of the Okanagan valley, who 42 years ago was one of the members of the first Canadian overland contingent to seek a fortune in Golden Cariboo, has disposed of his 480-acre homestead to a syndicate of local capitalists. While the consideration is not so large as it is understood to be a large sum, sufficient at least to allow this sturdy Arizonian to spend the balance of his days in ease and comfort, he is reported to be free from worry and the cares attendant on the management of a large farm.

The new owners have divided the land up into 10-acre plots and have already disposed of a number to recent arrivals from Manitoba and the Territories, who will engage in fruit raising. The property is situated about a mile and a half from town, is well watered and has an extremely fertile soil.

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THE NEW JAPANESE LOAN.

London, March 23.—According to newspaper statements here, the new Japanese loan will be issued at 90 and will run 20 years, with the option to Japan of redemption at par at the end of five years.

**FRENCH CHURCH AND STATE.**—Deputies Continue Debate on Repeal of Napoleon's Concordat.

Paris, March 23.—The Chamber of Deputies today continued the debate on the bill providing for the separation of church and state. M. Deschanel (Republican) former president of the house, declared the debate was the most important since the revolution, as it concerned the abolition of a religious regime which had existed for five centuries. The interference of religion with politics had become intolerable, while the interference of the state with questions of conscience was equally odious. Therefore, the time had come to place each upon a square and independent basis.

**UNEASY SAN DOMINGO.**—Prospects That Another Struggle Will Take Place Shortly.

San Domingo, Republic of San Domingo, March 23.—It is rumored that at a meeting of the Jimenez party it was resolved to telegraph to the followers of the former aspirant to the presidency at Monte Christo to prepare for a struggle. The government is taking precautions to meet coming events. The situation there is very serious and very critical. The Belgian minister here has filed a strong protest against delay in the settlement of the financial claims and a demand for prompt action by San Domingo in the matter. The minister will leave here tomorrow for Havana.

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