IN THE ALBERTA LEGISLATURE

Wednesday's Session.

A debate arose in the committee of the whole House at the Legislature on Wednesday over the proposed amendment to the Corporations Taxation Act which is included in the amendments to the statute law of the province. The amendment as explained by the attorney general makes it unlawful for a loan company to make any borrower or mortgagor cover the tax payable by the company to the revenues of the province. This has been a practice which has caused to some extent the high rates of interest.

Premier Rutherford thought the law would have a good effect in preventing loan companies charging an exorbitant rate of interest especially to farmers. He hoped soon to see the rate of interest to farmers in the west as low as in the east. A provision removing the tax to which the companies are now subject should be that they lower their rate of interest.

Mr. Rosenroll was not convinced that the amendment can be termed good legislation.

"The troubles of the farmer in borrowing money will be obviated when the government owns the farms," said the leader of the Opposition.

Cornelius Hiebert, member for Rosebud, said that the position which the premier has taken is sane. If it were detrimental to getting cheap money, why remove it, but he said it should otherwise stand. It must be remembered that money is not yet available in this province at two and three per cent.

"The position of the Premier is perfectly sane," repeated Mr. Hiebert.

"The member for Rosebud had better change seats with me," returned Mr. Rosenroll.

The committee of the whole held over the clause in the bill referring to Sunday street cars until the members were given an opportunity to hear a delegation on the question. Progress was accordingly reported on the bill and leave was asked to sit again.

Premier Rutherford gave notice that he would introduce a resolution on Friday calling upon the legislature to memorialize the Dominion government to the effect that the proceeds from the sale of school lands in the province be turned over in future to the provincial treasury in place of being retained by the Dominion government.

The House passed on the acts to incorporate the Cardston Club, to incorporate the Northern Alberta Railway Co. and to constitute Dr. N. D. Steele, a qualified medical practitioner of the province.

The election act will come up before the committe of the whole on Friday, when a debate is expected led by the Attorney-General.

The bills to grant charters to the Lacombe and Blind Man's Valley Electric Railway and the Lacombe, Bullocksville and Alix Electric Railway were read a second time, and referred to the railway committee. The first bill gives a charter to business men and farmers of Lacombe and Bentley, to construct and operate an electric railway connecting Lacombe with Bentley and Rimbey. The other bill gives a charter for an electric line from Lacombe to a point on the Red Deer river in township 38, range 23, and thence northeast to Alix. Both bills require that the consent of the towns be secured before any tracks are laid on the streets.

The bill validating the by-law of the town of Wetaskiwin to raise $18,000 for the purpose of prospecting and boring for natural gas in the city was read a second time and referred to the municipal committee.

Premier Rutherford gave notice that on Friday he will move an adjournment to Saturday afternoon.

Thursday's Session.

The committee of the whole house was engaged for a considerable period on Thursday in the consideration of the 300 clauses of the bill respecting the election of members of the legislative assembly of Alberta. The bill is framed largely on the basis of the Dominion election act and the election act of the older provinces, but it has several features to which the leader of the Opposition is strongly opposed. He gave indication of his belief that the government is going to appeal to the country on short notice and with the conservative press of the province brought up he thought the people would not have a chance to render a fair verdict. His colleague, the member for Rosebud, also showed some fears as to the election period when he asked the government whether it is the intention to dissolve the house before the voters' list were printed. The Premier in reply to this stated that the house is dissolved on the prerogative of the Lieutenant-Governor.

In section 105 of the Election Act it it stated that where an election is to be held the Lieutenant-Governor in council may appoint a day not more than twenty or less than sixteen days from the date of the writs of election for the nomination of candidates; and the seventh day after the nomination day shall be the day on which polling shall take place where a poll is granted.

Fears Snap Verdict.

The leader of the Opposition expressed the opinion that twenty-three days between the issue of the writ and the day of the election is too short. He thought that it gave an opportunity for securing a snap verdict, as was done in the Saskatchewan elections. Sixty days, or even ninety days, he thought would be more desirable.

Attorney-General Cross replied that sixty days would be absurd. The Dominion elections are held one month after the issue of the writ. He refuted the charge that there was a snap election in Saskatchewan. The election was brought on unexpectedly, but this was not due to the period of time between the issue of the writ and the election date. He thought it was in the interests of the country that the period be as short as possible.

Mr. Robertson was not satisfied. He said that the country could not be sufficiently informed of the political issues in that period of time.

Premier Rutherford was of the opinion that the country is prepared at any time for an election. After the redistribution measure is completed the constituencies will be smaller and there will be ample time to cover them.

"I am not afraid of an election but of a snap judgment," said Mr. Robertson. "If the people are not sufficiently informed how are we to get the voice of the people? A snap judgment is unfair and not in accordance with representative government."

The attorney-general pointed out that the proposed period of time is an extension of the time under the Territorial Election Act. Thirty days at the most would be long enough.

Mr. Robertson moderated his previous statement and suggested that the period be not less than twenty days from the date of the writ of election and ten days after nominations, making thirty days as the minimum.

The member for Macleod said that the people have had four years to judge the record of the government. The conservative platform, as framed at the recent conservative convention at Red Deer is now public and a comparison can now be made.

Conservative Press Bought.

"The people of the province do not know the record of the government as there is only one press," replied Mr. Robertson. The other side of the story should be given to every elector. Very few now take the daily papers.

J. W. Woolf, member for Cardston, suggested that the Conservative party be given time to buy presses to educate the people.

"What press does the member for High River refer to?" asked the member for Leduc.

Mr. Robertson replied tha the meant the Liberal press as the Conservative press in the country is bought up.

(Cries of "that's a hard one on the Journal.")

The clause in the bill providing that nomination day shall be on the same day in all constituencies was objected to by Mr. Robertson, who said this would not be possible where great distances had to be covered. Attorney-General Cross replied that a special clause will be provided in the act whereby Peace River and Athabasca constituencies will have a date for the election other than that for the other portions of the province.

The committee reported progress on the bill and asked leave to sit again.

Other bills were reported from the committee of the whole and will come up for a third reading on Saturday. These were the bills to amend the Strathcona charter to legalize assessment and rates of the Vermilion school district, to incorporate the Kootenay and Alberta Railway Company, and further to incorporate the Alberta North Western Railway Company.

The House passed on the acts respecting arbitration, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, the validating and confirming by-law No. 38 of the town of Camrose, amendments to the Lethbridge charter, incorporation of the Fairview Cemetery Company and respecting the town of Lacombe. The act to amend ordinances and statutes respecting the city of Calgary and to validate and confirm certain by-laws of the said city was held over pending a committee from Calgary which will be heard in connection with the Act.

The committee on municipal law reported, with amendments, the bill to amend the act to incorporate the city of Wetaskiwin and to validate, confirm, and amend by-law No. 103 of the said city. The important amendment suggested is to reject a clause which was granted last session and which the city of Edmonton applied for and was refused. This refers to the city having a preferential lien on the owner of property for the collection of light, heat and electric power charges. With this clause struck out the proprietor is not held responsible for any arrears of the above charges which a tenant may have contracted. The remedy for arrears is for the city to discontinue at any time the public utility concerned.

The committee on standing orders reported the Alberta Coal, Oil and Wheat Co., the first reading of which was subsequently moved by Mr. Woolf, member for Cardston.

Hon. W. T. Finlay, minister of Agriculture, laid the report of the Pork Commission on the table.

Mr. Rosenroll presented a public bill to amend the Northwest Territories ordinance respecting fences. The second reading will come up on Saturday.

The bill to incorporate the McGillivray Coal and Coke Company, introduced by Mr. Woolf, was given a second reading and referred to the Railway Committee.

The Speaker, during the period for presenting petitions, stated with regard to the petitions presented by the hon member for Red Deer asking for the guarantee of the bonds of the Alberta Central Railway Company, that as this is a matter affecting revenue it can only be dealt with by Lieutenant Governor in Council, and therefore he suggested that the honorable member forward the same to the Executive Council.

Notice of Questions.

Mr. Robertson gave notice that on Saturday he will ask the following questions:

(1) Re Railway Taxation—

Under the Railway Corporation Tax Act (Chapter 30, 1906), what is the amount of taxes paid into the provincial treasury by the different companies since the commencement of the Act?

What companies paid and what are the respective amounts?

What amount of taxes have been refunded and to what companies and for what years?

What companies are in arrears and what amounts?

(2) Re Civil Servants—

What were the number of male civil servants in the employ of the government on January 1st, 1908?

How many were added from September 1st to November 1st, 1908?

How many have been added to the service since January 1st, 1909?

How many were added to the Attorney-General's department since January 1st, 1908, and since January 1st, 1909?

(3) Re Liquor License Act—

Under the Liquor License Act, what fines have been remitted by the government for the past fiscal year and to whom?

What has been the revenue for that time and what have been the expenditures?

Does the government employ special agents, detectives, or informers and how many? How many are employed in Edmonton and how many in Calgary?

Opposition Inquisitive.

Mr. Robertson moved that an order of the House do issue showing a return for—

1. Copies of all vouchers, receipts, cheques paid to any parties in connection with the purchase of a court-house site in the City of Edmonton.

2. Particulars as to who authorized the purchase and to whom instructions were given.

3. Copies of orders in council issued in connection with the purchase.

4. Particulars of the names and amounts paid to each person in connection with the said purchase.

5. The amount paid, the amount deducted for commission, the amount deducted for other purposes.

6. Copies of offers for site, amounts at which site was offered, amount at which to the knowledge of the government site could be purchased.

Mr. Robertson also moved: That an order of the House do issue for a return showing—

1. Out of what funds the site for the University at Strathcona was purchased.

2. Copies of the vouchers, cheques paid to any person in connection with the purchase of said site.

3. Copies of orders-in-council, telegrams between the members of the cabinet and any and all paper writings in connection with said purchase?

4. Who was the person or persons from whom the site was purchased and who purported to transfer the same to the government.

What was the actual amount paid over, what amount was deducted for commission, amount deducted for other purposes.

The House adjourned at 5.30 o'clock.

MORE FISHERIES FOR CANADA.

Hecate Strait and Dixon Entrance Said to Belong to Canada.

Vancouver, Feb. 18—Vancouver fishery interests were surprised today at the receipt of the following letter by the secretary of the board of trade from Charles M. Hays, president of the Grand Trunk Pacific relating to the protection of the fisheries of British Columbia coast, especially north and west of Prince Rupert. "The Dominion Government is now building a vessel and proposes to rent another providing the protection called for. The Minister of Marine also states that it is now conceded that Hecate Strait as well as Dixon entrance belongs to Canada." The board of trade has wired Ottawa to obtain confirmation of the latter statement for its enforcement means a radical change in present policy and instructions of the Kestrel and other cutters of the fishery protection service. If Canada enforces this proposition scores of halibut fishing schooners now operating from Seattle and other American ports will be excluded from the fishery grounds.

RESTING PLACE OF THOS. SCOTT.

Saskatchewan Minister Knows Where the Body Lies.

Radisson, Sask., Feb. 18—Rev. Thos. Lawson, of this place, states that he has in his possession a statement written by one Setter, of Poplar Point, Man., in which the writer states that in the spring fololwing the assassination of Thomas Scott by the Lepine party at Fort Garry, a corpse was found on the banks of the Red river in the vicinity of St. Peters. Mr. Setter knew the late Thomas Scott personally, and identified the remains as his, although the body was decomposed. Several assert that the remains were none other than those of Scott. The ears showed plainly that the person when alive wore ear-rings. There was a rope around the neck. This rope was frayed, the inference being that a weight had been attached to it for the purpose of sinking the corpse in the Red river. The water being high at the time, it would be an easy matter for the body to float through the Vaudeeap rapids. Mr. Setter states that after the body was identified the late Archdeacon Henry Cochrane had the remains interred in St. Peter's cemetery, and a wooden cross was erected to mark the last resting place of Thomas Scott. Mr. Cochrane, it is said, reported the matter to the Hudson Bay official, who advised him and all concerned to keep the matter quiet. Those were stirring times, and for many reasons the reticency can easily be understood.

THE PITTSBURG GRAFT SCANDAL

President of Bank Guilty of Bribing a Councilman.

Pittsburg, Feb. 18—Ex-President W. W. Ramsey, of the German National bank, today was found guilty of bribing Councilman John P. Klein to make his bank a city depository. His attorneys immediately entered an appeal for a new trial. The district attorney called President Ramsey as a witness in the trial of Councilman Klein, which followed immediately, and the court heard the whole story of the transaction from Ramsey's lips, as he had not been called in his own defense in his own trial. His evidence was corroborated by Cashier Vilsack, when the court adjourned.

RANCHER'S UNTIMELY END.

Vincent Nelson, Claresholm, Falls From Load of Lumber, Breaking Neck.

Claresholm, Alta., Feb. 18—Vincent Nelson, a rancher, aged 35, living a short distance from Claresholm, had his neck broken this afternoon by falling from a load of lumber and was instantly killed. He was taking the lumber from Tucker and Chattlon's mills to Porcupine Hills. The wagon skidded, upsetting, with the fatal result.

FIENDISHLY TORTURED.

Irish Lacemaker in Chicago Victim of Horrible Attack.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 17.—Miss Ella Gingles, a pretty Irish lacemaker, arrested on a charge of theft, was found gagged, bound and poisoned in the bathroom of the Wellington hotel today. She had been tortured in the most horrible manner. She had been burned with a candle, her hair torn out and choked with a wet towel. She had evidently been made the victim of a most mysterious and fiendish plot. When a physician restored her to consciousness she cried, "She's coming back, she's coming back," indicating that a woman performed the horrible deed. Miss Barrette, who prosecuted her for theft, expressed great surprise when she learned of the horrible crime.

ROBLIN DRIVEN TO WALL DODGES ISSUE

Liberal Opposition in Manitoba Legislature Calls for Investigation of Voters' Lists—Roblin Restricts Inquiry and Cuts Down Liberal Representation.

Winnipeg, Feb. 18—During the debate on the address the matter of compilation of the lists was referred to by the Opposition and Premier Roblin, after defending the system in vogue in the province, challenged the Opposition to formulate charges against the existing system, promising, if they did so, to give them a committee of investigation and to furnish all the assistance necessary to have a searching inquiry.

In accordance with this offer, the Opposition yesterday submitted to the House a resolution formulating seven distinct charges against the present system of making the lists and its administration, alleging:—

That the names of persons who registered were left off the lists; that the names of persons qualified to register on the list had been struck off; that the lists included the names of a large number of persons not properly qualified to be registered; that names have been illegally added to the lists; that great irregularities have been committed by registration clerks; that registration clerks have refused to accept notices to strike off names; and that grosa partisanship has been displayed in the administration of the act and the allotment of dates, hours and places for registration.

Fearful of Result of Enquiry.

This clear-cut acceptance by the Opposition of the challenge thrown out by the premier at an earlier stage of the session, was not acceptable to the government, and Mr. Roblin moved an amendment, the effect of which was to limit an investigation to the year 1908, whereas, under the motion, as submitted by the Opposition, it would be possible to go back to the beginning of the present system of making the lists and investigating the irregularities which have been charged in recent years.

Mr. Roblin's amendment also reduced the Liberal representation of the committee from five to three. The Opposition refused to accept this limitation of the investigation and a spirited debate ensued, in which the Liberal members made it clear that they were prepared, if given the opportunity, to prove absolutely the charges set forth in Mr. Walton's motion.

THERE CAN NOW BE NO APPEAL TO ARMS

Servia Failed to Seize the Psychological Moment in Which to Strike in the Austro-Servian Difficulty, According to Servian Foreign Minister, Who Seeks to Maintain Peace.

Vienna, Feb. 19.—Much importance is attached to the arrival of M. Sergieff, Russian minister at Belgrade, and the fact that leave of absence has been given to the Austro-Hungarian minister, Count Forgach, who likewise is coming here. M. Sergieff had an interview of a couple of hours with Prince George, prior to leaving Belgrade, and the latter immediately communicated the results to the King.

M. Pachitch, the Servian foreign minister, and M. Sergieff, the Russian, had a long and serious conversation just before the latter left Belgrade for Vienna. While they were talking, Prince George rushed into the room and made a violent verbal attack on M. Pachitch. He told M. Sergieff not to believe a word that was told to him. He declared also that M. Pachitch was a "liar" who always said the opposite of what he intended doing.

M. Pachitch, according to the latest news received, will undoubtedly form a coalition ministry with a view of maintaining peace for, to use his words, the moment for a settlement by an appeal to arms is past.

Think War is Inevitable.

Vienna, Feb. 18—Anxiety is high in government diplomatic circles in regard to Servia. The steadily increasing optimism felt in foreign chancelleries is not shared here. A council of ministers has been summoned for tonight and the decision there arrived at is expected to be of the highest importance, as it may mean either an immediate mobilization of the troops or an ultimatum to Servia to say what its war preparations really denote. Some definite move is expected within a week. Many of the best informed people consider that war is inevitable.

The Cheaper Postage.

St. Johns, Feb. 18—Two cents letter postage between the United States and Newfoundland will become a reality on March 1, the Washington cabinet having agreed to the reduction. The postage has hitherto been five cents. The reform is said to be due largely to Dr. Wilfrid Grenfell, the Labrador missionary.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday's Session.

Ottawa, Feb. 17—The greater portion of the afternoon session of the House of Commons was consumed by a debate on the resolution by Houghton Lennox (Con., East Simcoe) in connection with level crossings, the vital part of which read: "The rule, and the presumption from the acceptance of a charter, should be the separation or protection of crossings everywhere, with the onus upon the company of establishing a justification for exceptional treatment in separate cases."

Mr. Lennox maintained that the railway board can never do more than mitigate the evil, and pressed upon the government the adoption of a definite policy at this session. There were 15,000 level crossings in Canada, at 3,115 of which there was some protection. He admitted there were thousands of crossings where no protection was needed, but there were tens of hundreds where protection was necessary. During the past five years in Canada there had been 270 deaths and 350 injuries at level crossings.

Ideal Condition in Britain.

Mr. Lennox found the ideal condition in Great Britain, where, he said:

1—No level crossing was allowed on a carriage road, except by special act of parliament.

2—All level crossings are protected by gates which are closed except when persons are crossing the tracks.

3—Trains may not be run at more than four miles an hour at crossings near stations.

4—Railways bear all expenses.

5—The railways pay taxes on an average of $1,000 per mile.

On this ideal Mr. Lennox contended that from October, 1900, to March, 1902, not one passenger was killed on a British railway.

He cited the rules in France and in the United States, under which level crossings are being abolished. In France these are confined to rural and private roads, while at such there must be gates and resident watchmen. The railway bears the whole cost. The practice in the various states was given as follows: Massachussetts: New railways, no level crossings, except by permission of the railway board; old railway companies pay 65 per cent, 25 per cent. municipally, 10 per cent. state. New York: New railway companies pay all; old railway companies pay 50 per cent., state 25, municipality 25. Maine: Old railway companies pay 65 per cent., state 25, municipality 10. Michigan: Companies pay all.

Would Follow United States Plan.

Mr. Lennox argued that where new railways were being built, there should be no level crossings without gates, unless it could be shown that no protection was necessary. For existing railroads he did not consider it unreasonable that a share of the maintenance of protecting the crossings should be paid by the Dominion and the provinces. There should be no contribution by the municipalities, owing to the fact that we in Canada had contributed largely to the building of railways, and had taxed them very lightly. The railways might contribute a larger share of the cost here than in the United States.

The minister of railways pointed out that the large part railways play in our industrial life was the reason for treating them liberally. He admitted large aid had been given to railways, but otherwise we might not have had railways. Coming to a division of the cost, he commented on Mr. Lennox's citation of the American practice, pointing out that the Federal government did not make any payment. He laid down the general principle that all who had contributed to creating the present conditions should help in bearing the cost and under this general principle he would include the Dominion, the provinces, the municipalities and the railways. The share of the state he suggested should be limited to a certain maximum which, according to circumstances, the railway board might reduce, if thought advisable, to nil. Mr. Graham remarked that 90 per cent. of the level crossing fatalities would not occur if ordinary care had been exercised by the victims.

Lancaster Interrupts.

E. A. Lancaster (Con., Lincoln) protested and Hon. Mr. Graham replied that was the report of the railway board officials.

"Furnished to them by the railways?" said Lancaster.

"No," demurred, the minister "consulted on their own inquiries."

"Their report covers only 180 out of 270 cases," interposed Mr. Lennox.

Mr. Graham concluded by laying down the doctrine that new railways should bear the total cost of abolishing or protecting level crossings.

Mr. Lancaster declared the people should pay nothing for the protection of level crossings. For the abolition of crossings, the people should bear a part, but only through the Dominion government, which had granted the rights to railways.

J. W. Edwards (Con., Frontenac) charged the Grand Trunk with "criminal disregard of the protection of the public" in laying six tracks on the Kingston crossing and turning it into a shunting yard.

F. D. Monk (Con., Jacques Cartier) supported the resolution and the debate was adjourned on the understanding that Mr. Graham would probably introduce a bill on the subject this session. If not, the debate is to be re-opened.

The Waterways Treaty.

R. L. Borden drew the attention of the prime minister to the fact that a Toronto paper had published what purported to be a full text of the waterways treaty. He expressed the opinion that if this was a correct copy there could be no reason why the House should not be in possession of the treaty. Mr. Borden pointed out that the London Times printed a summary of the treaty as early as Jan. 8.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that for some time past newspapers had been publishing more or less accurate summaries of the treaty.

Mr. Borden remarked that the article published purported to be a copy of President Roosevelt's message to the American senate.

Sir Wilfrid said that if it was he did not think it had been given out by the United States senate. It had probably been procured in a surreptitious manner. The premier agreed that there was no reason why the treaty should not be made public.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley, minister of public works, in replying to a question by Houghton Lennox in respect to the May & McAvity dredging contract at St. John, N.B., said: "The government, through the department of public works, has fully inquired into the awarding of the contract, with the result that it appears to have been awarded to the lowest tenderer in the usual and proper way after public advertisement. It does not appear that there would be any public advantage in making further inquiry into the matter and the government has no present intention of doing so."

Mr. Pugsley added that the government had not consulted the legal department as to its right to recover this money, for the reason that if there was no collusion between the minister of public works or other officials of the department and May & McAvity in connection with the tenders, which has not been alleged, no right of action would exist to recover any portion of the amount paid under the contract.

The minister of railways informed Mr. Borden that up to January 31, 1909, the amount expended by the government in the construction of the national transcontinental railway was $48,265,129. During the twelve months ending January 31, slightly over $26,000,000 was spent. Mr. Borden was also told that 667 miles of the western division of the N. T. R., are completed and in operation.

Western Members Seek Information.

The House adopted without discussion the following motions made by western members: G. H. Bradbury (Con. Souris) for a return showing the number and names of all persons who were entitled to and did receive patents under the treaty, made by H. M. Ryerson for the surrender of the St. Peters Indian reserve, Manitoba; for a copy of all correspondence between J. H. Davis and the department of Marine and Fisheries referring to the fisheries of Manitoba, and of all petitions and correspondence from the Fishermen's Union, Gimli, Manitoba to and with said department; for a copy of the report of Fishing Inspector Young of Manitoba, for the years 1904 and 1906 and a copy of all correspondence or petitions received from F. W. Colclaugh while he was inspector of fisheries for Manitoba; for a return showing the amount of money paid by the government including all branches of service from January 1st, 1897 to January 1st, 1909 to the Logberg Printing Company, Winnipeg.

W. D. Staples, (Con. Macdonald), for an order of the House, for a copy of all correspondence respecting improvements made in the Assiniboine river near Portage la Prairie in September and October, 1908, and of all papers, vuochers, orders, resolutions, returned cheques, etc., in any way relating to said work or carrying out of same.

G. A. Magrath (Con. Medicine Hat), for a copy of all correspondence, reports and papers of every description treating with the application of or grant to Francis Percival Aylwin, of city of Ottawa, of a tract of land in the province of Alberta for irrigation purposes; for a return giving a list of railway charters granted since January 1st, 1900, other than to the Grand Trunk, Grand Trunk Pacific, Canadian Northern and Canadian Pacific railway companies, showing those whose powers have lapsed and the length of each of the proposed roads and branches, the date of charters and renewals if any, the total mileage constructed, the capital stock, authorized subsidies and paid up.

R. S. Lake, (Con. Qu'Appelle) for a copy of all lists of voters as prepared by enumerators and completed by deputy returning officers for the several polling subdivisions in the electoral riding of Qu'Appelle and used in the recent general election for the House of Commons, also for a return showing the boundaries of said polling subdivisions, and the names of the enumerators, deputy returning officers, poll clerks, candidates, agents or scrutineers who acted for each poll.

Thursday's Session.

Ottawa, February 18.—In the House of Commons this afternoon, J. G. Turriff (Liberal, Assiniboia) introduced a bill to amend the railway law regarding the building of new lines. At present each company chartered to build a railway must spend 10 per cent. of the total cost of construction in the first year. Mr. Turriff proposes to compel companies, when the line is under 250 miles in length, to build 10 per cent. in the first two years, 10 per cent. in the third and fourth years, and complete the line in five years. When the line is over 250 miles it must build 1-20th in the first two years, 1-20 in the third and fourth years respectively, and complete the road in five years.

Dr. Sproule (Conservative, East Grey) introduced a bill to amend the Dominion Lands Act regarding school funds. Originally the act stated that interest in school funds derived from the sale of school land in Saskatchewan and Alberta should go to the support of "public schools." In the Act passed last year the clause is changed to read: "Schools organized and carried on according to the laws of the province." Dr. Sproule wishes to return to the old reading. The same amendment was made in the Senate last year, but was never reported to the Commons. Whether this failure to report was intentional or accidental, Dr. Sproule said he did not know.

As to Canned Meats.

The Premier told Col. Sam Hughes that the government had not heard that the British government had contracted for large quantities of canned meats for the army and navy from foreign nations. Neither had the government any information as to whether efforts were made by the British authorities to buy in Canada, South Africa or Australia.

Col. Sam Hughes also asked: "Is it the custom of the British government to favor a foreign nation with whom it wishes to cultivate friendship and persons other than those loyal to Britain and her institutions to the detriment and exclusion of those loyal and true to Britain and her institutions?"

This question Sir Wilfrid described as "improper, as it implied censure where the house had no authority." He added that he believed the British government would give any reasonable preference to citizens of the empire.

N. Clarence Jamieson (Conservative, Digby) was informed that the government is not considering the imposition of an import duty on wood pulp and that the government is not negotiating with the United States contemplating a reduction in the American tariff on condition that imposition of such tax be prohibited.

J. D. Taylor (Conservative, New Westminster) asked if the government had received a resolution of the British Columbia Legislature praying for the appointment of a royal commission by the Imperial government to inquire into Oriental immigration.

"No," replied Hon. Chas. Murphy.

Mr. Taylor then read the records of the proceedings of the British Columbia Legislature, stating that a resolution had been sent to the Dominion government, to which the Premier answered that the Secretary of State had answered for his own department and that he had instructed his secretary to make a search.

The Fisheries Treaty.

The fisheries treaty between Canada and the United States was the subject of a series of questions. Mr. Daniel began by asking if the treaty gave Americans the right to fish in Canadian waters. His question was the result of reports of regulations made by the joint commissioners under the treaty.

The Minister of Marine replied that Americans were limited to American waters. He added that the reported regulations were merely the American draft and had not been accepted by Canada.

A. K. McLean (Conservative, Lunenberg) wished to know whether any agreement had been reached between the Dominion and the provinces in relation to a conflict of jurisdiction over fisheries under the decision of the privy council. He expressed the belief that Nova Scotia would be willing to surrender her rights and to give the Dominion complete control.

Hon. Mr. Brodeur answered that no agreement had been reached, but that negotiations were still in progress.

Hon. Mr. Forster asked if the treaty required the assent of parliament. The Premier thought not.

The House then went into supply on the public works estimates.

WAR VETERAN SOUGHT DEATH.

Had Found Life in New York Harder Than in Canada.

New York, February 18.—Despondency over his inability to get work, is the reason ascribed by the police for the attemnted suicide of Abraham Isaacs, a well-groomed young man, who was found unconscious in the streets of Brooklyn early yesterday. A letter addressed to his mother by the would-be suicide is all that there is to explain the man's act.

Isaacs was removed to the hospital and the physicians say they think he has a fair chance of recovery. The surgeon says he had taken belladonna.

The letter to the man's mother, which was unaddressed and in the man's pockets, read:

"Dear Mother,—I hope you are getting on well. I have not yet found work. I feel miserable and don't know what to do. I feel sorry that I took your advice and came to New York from Canada. Here the unemployed are treated like dogs of the road.

"I wish I had met the fate of my chum, Sergeant Kenslow, at the battle of Paardeberg, in South Africa. I remember well during the battle when he was shot down and I picked him up. As I carried him back to the rear he told me to let him drop and protect myself from the hail of bullets being poured on us by the Boer sharpshooters. Kenslow said he was no more good and asked only that I take back a message to his sweetheart. When I got him back to the field hospital he was sure dead. Twenty bullets had struck him and I didn't know he was being hit and I staggered along with him on my shoulders.

"I now feel pretty much shot to pieces and as if I am now not much use in this world. Your loving son,

"ABE."

Isaacs was evidently an Englishman. He had been living for some time at 118 East Eleventh street, Manhattan, where, however, nothing was known of him.

FOR ADEQUATE PACIFIC NAVY.

Representative Hobson Makes Strong Appeal in House of Representatives.

Washington, Feb. 18—What Congress did today: In the senate the post office appropriation bill was taken up after Senator LaFollette had insisted on its going over for a day. The pension committee recorded the pension bill and restored the branch pension agencies which were struck out in the House. A hearing on the wireless telegraph bill was heard by the commerce commission. Senator Gray, of South Carolina, addressed the senate on immigration. In the House of Rtorsentativees in committee of the whole the debate on the penal court bill was resumed. The conferees on the appropriation bill were directed to change it the salary provision which makes Senator Knox ineligible for secretary of state. Representative Hobson made a strong speech for an adequate navy in the Pacific. Representative Hepburn attacked the House rules and the Speaker's power.

Claresholm Talks Gravity System.

Claresholm, Feb. 18—At a meeting of the town council tonight it was decided to investigate the feasibility of a gravity water system, bringing the water twelve miles. The estimated cost is sixty thousand. It was also decided to ask Orr Jarvis, Winnipeg, to submit a tender for the franchise for an electric lighting plant.