

SHORT SESSION DEVOTED TO ROUTINE

Various Public Measures Advanced in Legislature—Interesting Debates Promised For Next Week

Friday's sitting of the Provincial House will go on the records in all probability as the shortest business sitting of the session—for it was just forty minutes after Deputy Speaker Hayward took the chair that the House rose for the week-end rest.

The explanation of such unusual brevity is four-fold: The hearing of deputations had engaged the members of the Government continuously from 10 o'clock until 2; the majority of the members had spent the morning on committee work; various main members were desirous of catching the afternoon steamer in order to enjoy the Sunday with their families; and social engagements called insistently upon them.

The business disposed of was limited strictly to routine advancement of sundry public measures, discussion being of the briefest and most casual character. The petition of Victoria city for a bill to validate certain city bylaws was formally received; report was adopted on the bill providing for sanitary conditions in construction and logging camps, amending the act reading of this measure being set for Monday; the bills to amend the public service act, and to create the new Strathcona park, were considered in committee, the committee rising each with a progress report; and, on the motion of Mr. McKay, the bill was introduced and given first reading providing an extension of time for the expenditure of 10 per cent on the capitalization of the Crown's West & Northern railway—this bill going automatically to the Railway committee.

Interesting Debates.

The coming week gives promise of being fruitful in interesting debates, there being already listed a number of arguments and oratorical efforts. Mr. Hawthorthwaite's motion condemning the Anglo-Japanese alliance, Mr. McGuire's for a Royal Commission to inquire into the alleged excessive cost of coal to the provincial consumer. To those will be added resolutions standing in Mr. Hayward's agreement, announced from Ottawa, and resurrecting the Cobden clause, Mr. Brewster's also placed upon the Orders a notice of question addressed to the Education minister, and which reads as follows:

"1. What was the reason when the report of the University Site Commission was drawn up and signed, as shown by the report itself?

"2. Did any of the documents in connection with the report bear a different date? If so, which document, and what was the date of it?

"3. How much of the report comprised the so-called 'interim report,' and why was it so called?

"4. Were all the documents since made public as the Commission's report contained in the envelope when first handed to the Minister of Education by Professor Murray?

"5. Was the Minister told when he handed the report on that occasion that it was an interim report only? If not, why did he so characterize it? Did the Minister make himself acquainted with the substance of the report when first handed to it by Professor Murray?

"6. If he did, did the Minister communicate the information to his colleagues or to any other person; and, if so, to whom and when?

"7. What was the object of the Minister in returning the report to Professor Murray and asking him to hold it till a later date?"

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second reading of this bill" (Applause.)

Advantages of Park. Mr. Manson (Comox) said that as representing the district in which the park was situated, he could hardly endorse all that had been said by the minister of finance, and if the government undertook to open up this great park, it would be one of the best things they had ever undertaken. If a road were built in from Campbell river, it would go not only through some of the most magnificent scenery, but would open up a rich agricultural country and give access to some splendid timber lands. Beside this, it would make accessible some splendid fishing grounds. The road after passing from Campbell river to Buttle lake, a distance of some 35 or 36 miles, could be carried through the valleys down towards Alberni. As a scenic road, it would surpass anything to be found in the Yellowstone park, and he doubted whether it could be surpassed anywhere in the world. When it was considered that this park would be accessible to the common people, and would be a recreation ground for rich and poor alike, the government would be easily justified in spending money upon it. Looking at it from the standpoint of a business man, the tourist trade it would induce would bring more than a return in money into the people's hands. Mr. Hawthorthwaite agreed that this step taken would meet the endorsement of the House and of the country. It was a recognition of social needs and social justice, and it was an individual park individually owned, and he was glad to see the desires of the common people being recognized. In that connection, however, the minister of finance apparently wished to have the park to be a motor road, but in his knowledge of the common people, there were only one or two that would be interested in such a thing. Mr. Hawthorthwaite agreed that this step taken would meet the endorsement of the House and of the country. It was a recognition of social needs and social justice, and it was an individual park individually owned, and he was glad to see the desires of the common people being recognized. In that connection, however, the minister of finance apparently wished to have the park to be a motor road, but in his knowledge of the common people, there were only one or two that would be interested in such a thing.

Unanimous Passage. The Premier said it was very gratifying that the selection and reservation of the Buttle Lake area as a provincial park had met with the endorsement of the honorable gentlemen opposite. There could be no question of the wisdom of the government with regard to that reservation. He was glad to see that the park had been equally unanimous in praise of the act. It was a gratifying fact that the park was easy of access to a large proportion of the population; in fact it was more so than any other park in the province. Vancouver than from Victoria, but when the contemplated railway on the Island was built, the people of Victoria would have easy access over steel rails which would be ample compensation for any difference in distance. It was gratifying to know also that the Province had on Vancouver Island beauty spots that would compare favorably with Yellowstone Park or the National Park. This spot was enclosed by mountains and led to its lakes and rivers and running brooks was the rich vegetation which gave it such a finishing touch as to render the whole Park a beautiful picture. The question would soon be before the government as to the proper means for the development of that park. In his view, no false steps should be taken and competent skill should be employed from the first. He understood that the Commissioner of Lands and the minister of Public Works had agreed to work together to the end. The government could not perhaps expect a large sum for immediately developing the park; he did not think it was in a position to do so at this time. But it would be an exploratory work, and the minister of Finance, with the final intention of having the best plans that money and brains could produce for the opening of the park. In countries today where climate and environment could not be compared with British Columbia, a large revenue was brought into the country by visitors to such spots as reasonably expect to see on the coast line of British Columbia. He would not take his seat without thanking the minister of finance for his most energetic and able assistance. He would also be glad to see that the government desired to preserve to the people the beauty spots and playgrounds of British Columbia. Mr. Williams, while he approved of the general principle of the bill, said it was rather strange that it had not been brought down by the Commissioner of Lands, to whose department it belonged, but as the Minister of Finance seemed to conceive the idea of opening it up with an automobile road it was, perhaps, a right that he should bring it in as it would probably make large drafts on the treasury. Only a Vancouver real estate man could exceed the minister in the glowing picture he had drawn, but of course there was this difference: He would not believe that the real estate man but he did accept the minister's statement as true. In the picture the president of the council had drawn he said the Minister of Finance might have scaled the pinnacle of the highest mountain, he was capable to say "might." In fact there was something suggestive of Dr. Cook about his mountain climbing. He remembered that the late "Mike King," of whom the member for Alberni had spoken, had, with some other gentlemen a few sessions ago, tried to get a cinch on the two rainbows at Campbell Falls, and the Minister of Finance had spoken of their anxiety to secure possession of them as they would be worth much more than the waterpower. The president of the council had said there was no champagne in the baggage, but how did he account for the two rainbows. So far as the park was concerned, it was an extraordinary, as the whole of Vancouver Island was a park, and while it was not too early to set aside the reserve, it did seem too early to spend much money on it. The bill passed second reading unopposed.

Carries Five Passengers. PARIS, Jan. 27.—A world's record for passenger carrying was set here today by Aviator Sommer, when he carried five passengers from Douzy to Romilly, a distance of 13 miles. The combined weight of his passengers and the petrol tank was 1,000 pounds. The flight was made in a Farman biplane. Two of the passengers rode astride of the skids. The other three rode on specially constructed seats beside the aviator.

Death of Mrs. F. J. Heney. NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—Mrs. Francis Heney of San Francisco, whose husband was formerly a special prosecutor in the case of the late "Mike King," died tonight of tubercular meningitis at the New York home of Charles R. Crane. She had been ill about ten days. Mr. and Mrs. Heney came here January 6, to attend the dinner of the Periodical Publishers' association, and were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Crane. Shortly afterwards Mrs. Heney fell ill and her decline was unchecked. The body will be taken to San Francisco tomorrow, but no plans for the burial were given out tonight.

SIR WILLIAM'S MONEY. Canadian Northern President Comes Near To Being Robbed Of \$50,000 By Car Porter. OTTAWA, Jan. 27.—According to the Evening Citizen, Sir William Mackenzie of the C. N. R. was made the victim of a daring robbery by a porter of his own private car during his recent visit to Ottawa. Sir William slept on, on arrival of his car at the Central station, he did not awake until nearly 10 o'clock. He had an appointment with Hon. George Graham, minister of railways, and arose in a hurry to be at the minister's office 1/2 time. Under his pillow was a package of \$50,000 in bills of large denominations. In his haste in getting up he did not take the

time to put the roll away in a secure place, merely wrapping it up in his nightgown and tossing it on the bed in his stateroom, trusting to his employees on the car to guard it safely for him. When the porter came to make up the room he found the roll of money unaccountably, and, driven by a sudden temptation, he took the whole of it and made preparations to get away. Remorse seems to have seized him partially, however, for, instead of only the outside bills, two of \$500 each he took the next train for the west before the loss was discovered, leaving the balance of the roll scattered on the car floor. The robber was kept quiet here, Sir William employing his own men to run down the thief. He was captured at Windsor, Ont., with the two \$500 notes in his possession. The man made a full confession, according to the report received here, and was hushed for the time being by the authorities, dismissing the man and not instituting any action.

OPIMUM IN FRANCE. Practice of Using Drug on Increase in Paris as Well as Seaports. PARIS, Jan. 27.—The case of the naval lieutenant who was charged with last year for "high treason," and who was a victim to the opium habit, has raised the prevalence of this vice in the capital. The agitation has never altogether died away, and there seems a probability of energetic measures being taken to stamp it out. It is certain that the practice is at present on the increase not only at the seaports of Toulon, Cherbourg and Brest, but also in Paris. The apothecaries, civil and military, who have contracted the habit abroad, and on their return are unable to break themselves of it, are the worst offenders. In the case of the headquarters of the opium smokers, but the figure of a thousand put down for Paris is probably far below the mark.

HAD FREAK HOP ON KETSAP WRECK. Salvors Had Luck in Getting Lines Fast On Odd Places Of Sunken Vessel. SEATTLE, Jan. 26.—Examination of the wrecked steamer Ketsap by Henry S. Finch, the diver, disclosed the fact that only the rarest freak of luck favored Richard Ward & Sons in their work of hooking the big vessel and getting her into shallow water. The big cables lowered from the floating dry dock are fast only on one side of the vessel in a manner apparently unsafe for moving the hull, and yet so firmly wedged that the diver informed the salvors that there is little danger of their losing their hold. The first cable to catch was that at the stern, and the heavy wire strand became so firmly entangled under the steamer's rudder and against the bows of the keel that it may cause some trouble to loosen it. The second cable is a little forward of amidships and reported to be caught in the hole in the hull made by the bows of the steamer Indianapolis, which sank the Ketsap. Additional cables were prepared to loop around the hull yesterday. The wreck will probably be moved today or tomorrow as soon as a more comprehensive survey is made for the information of the underwriters. Capt. Finch waited about on the decks of the sunken vessel and around the hull and reported nothing of evidence of any great wreckage to the hull.

MONEY FOR LIBERIA. Loan Of Two Million Dollars To Be Raised By United States Capitalists. LONDON, Jan. 26.—The Librarian minister in London, who is also diplomat agent in France, has been authorized by his government to sign the treaty with France of 1907, as interpreted by the Mixed Frontier Commission. The way, therefore, is now clear for the advancement of the loan negotiations, the French government having insisted on the signature of the boundary treaty before consenting to the American project for placing the Republic under a new financial basis. Mr. Falkner, head of the recent American commission to Liberia and now special financial agent in the United States and Europe for Liberia, is objecting a visit to Monrovia with the purpose of hastening the passing of the loan. No difficulty is expected in this regard, since the Republic is start for which an opportunity is now offered her by the powers. The American scheme contemplates a loan of \$2,000,000 for the conversion of the funded and floating debt. The foreign debt consists of two loans, held almost entirely in Great Britain.

BLACK SNOW FELL. Strange Phenomena In One Of The Valleys Of Switzerland. GENEVA, Jan. 26.—In the Emmenthal Valley and on the surrounding mountains, "black" snow fell a few days ago to a depth of 15 inches, giving the whole country, which was white with snow before, a funeral and most depressing aspect over a large area. The first few inches of the snow was of a green color, as if mixed with the ashes, but the grey became darker and darker in hue until now it is almost black. Such a phenomenon has been witnessed in the Alps in former years after volcanic eruptions in different parts of the world, and on this occasion Swiss scientists are of opinion that the black snow is due to ashes blown over the sea and Alps after the recent eruption of Mount Etna.

FRUIT GROWERS MAY RETAIL PRODUCT. Threaten Retaliation If Growers Will Not Deal Exclusively Through Their Organization In This City. That the Victoria Fruitgrowers' Exchange will open a retail institution to sell fruit to the consumers at reduced prices if the growers of the city do not support them in buying fruit from the exchange and not from the farmers, was the unanimous endorsement of the members at the annual meeting held Wednesday. The association offered to immediately grant \$50,000 for this purpose, but it was decided to allow the growers more time to enter the proposition. In many respects the co-operation of the growers is to an advantage. The local fruit upon the market will be of a better grade. At the present much fruit bought by the grocers from the farmer direct is not desirable. It is the intention of the exchange that the best be on the market. And from one central distribution point the standard of the product will be protected. Should the grocers, however, fail to join the exchange in this, a retail market will be established by the exchange. This is inevitable. Another matter well under way is the establishment of a canning factory for fruits, etc. Mr. Thomas Brydon was elected to the president's chair and Mr. Drummond Toulon and Ernest were elected to the headquarters of the opium smokers, but the figure of a thousand put down for Paris is probably far below the mark.

EXPECT INCREASE IN COST OF COAL. Operators Say Growing Cost Of Living Will Lead To Advance—Effect Of Reciprocity Arrangement. Instead of the cost of coal decreasing in British Columbia, there is every likelihood of an increase in the price in the near future in the opinion of Mr. L. Stockert, general manager of the Hostler Collieries, who is at present visiting the city. In his view, the world's respect is sustained by Mr. James A. Crowe, who as general manager of the Crown Nest Coal Company, operates an organization which has a monthly output of 110,000 tons. Both gentlemen are guests at the Empress. "If," said Mr. Stockert, "a Royal Commission is appointed to inquire into the cost of coal, its members will require information as to the cost of production in the West. With the increase in the cost of living the wages of miners have to be raised and necessarily the cost of production becomes greater. The history of the coal and mining industry in this country shows a continual advance in the cost of the product, and instead of there being any prospect of a reduction I see every indication of the price advancing still further. Not only is there an increase in the wages of the miners but also in the cost of supplies, and these two factors, the price of which is steadily increasing, mean that the cost of coal will eventually go higher than it is at present."

SAANICH WATER EXTENSION. Municipality Will Undertake Extensive Scheme—City To Do Work. Extensive additions to the water distribution system in Saanich municipality were made this year. On the recommendation of the water committee, the municipality will install additional extensions in that municipality the cost of which will be paid for by the municipality. These extensions will be laid on Boleskine Road from the Road to Harriett Road; on Harriett Road from Boleskine Road to Gorge Road; on Burnside Road from Harriett Road to Tillicum Road; on Tillicum Road from Burnside Road to Gorge Road and from Gorge Road to Gorge Park where the city will pay one half, estimated at \$30,000, all connections and water rates to be paid for according to the city bylaw.

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