

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1896.

NOT FORMIDABLE.

The Times heads its report of the Wednesday night's meeting in the City Hall "Afraid to meet the people." Supporters of the Clites' Government Bill do not appear to be so afraid. Whom were the supporters of the Government afraid to meet? Did Mr. Ritchie tremble at the thought of meeting in debate Mr. Alexander Wilson? In Mr. Carey such a formidable opponent that Mr. Harry Holmwood found it convenient to leave town rather than tackle him in the City Hall? Would Mr. Booth rather face an angry panther than an ex-Alderman Lovell? Were the other opponents of the Government of Clites Bill so well versed in constitutional lore and such masters of logic that they would be sure to demolish any supporter of the Government who would have the audacity to appear before them? One has only to read—if he has the patience—the report of the speeches of the "representative" men of the Times, to estimate their mental calibre, their political intelligence and their oratorical ability. The men who could put a greater quantity of rot and rubbish in the same space would work a kind of bad miracle. We heartily pity the unfortunate reporters whose duty it was to try to put the confused balderdash in a shape at all fit to appear before the public.

It is fortunate, from our point of view, that those who engineered the meeting had not sense enough or courtesy enough to invite the members and supporters of the Government to take part in its proceedings. The orators of the evening succeeded in making the cause they advocated ridiculous. They have by their folly and stupidity done as much to discredit it as the most ardent supporter of the Government could wish. The wisest thing that could have been done was to let these men have their fling. Such advocacy as theirs would ruin the best of causes. The only people who have reason to fear them when they get on the stump are their friends.

A MONSTROUS ABSURDITY.

The inconsistency of the men who engineered Wednesday night's indignation meeting was simply stupendous. They professed to be dreadfully indignant because a bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly to give the electors of cities power to make a temporary change in the way in which the affairs of the municipalities are managed. The electors themselves are to ask for the change and they are to have the power either to accept or reject it after it is submitted to them.

The resolution which they drew up asserted the rights of the citizens to manage their own affairs in the strongest manner possible, and characterized the bill which gave them power to dispense with aldermen for a time as "an outrageous invasion of the rights of citizenship." Yet these same champions of the rights of the people, these indignant protesters against any interference on the part of the Government in the management of the affairs of cities, drew up a resolution begging the Dominion Government to take charge of the affairs of the Province without as much as saying "by your leave" to its inhabitants whom they would deprive of the right of self-government. The men who would not allow the citizens themselves to petition Government to appoint Commissioners to aid the Mayor in managing the affairs of the city, undertook without authority from anyone to ask the Dominion Government to disfranchise every voter in the Province and to divert the Government, which the people only the other day confirmed in office, of every vestige of power. Was there ever such inconsistency? Did ever men pretending to be intelligent make such fools of themselves? The men who attended the meeting saw the absurdity of what they would be leaders had done. They halted the absurd resolution with shouts of derision and passed it amid peals of laughter.

THE POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES.

The citizens of Victoria are, we are sure, glad to learn that the difficulty with the Post Office officials has been settled in the way that the representatives of the city in the House of Commons desired. Col. Prior and Mr. Earle have been indefatigable in their efforts to have the difficulty arranged in a manner satisfactory to the clerks and carriers. They have always contended for the provisional allowance, and they were indignant when it was withheld. When the employees were so ill-advised as to strike work the difficulty of getting the provisional allowance for the officials was very greatly increased. It can be easily understood that the Heads of Departments cannot regard a strike with favor, and it must have been a difficult matter to get them to make allowances for the peculiar circumstances in which the Victoria Post Office clerks were placed. Discipline in the public service must be maintained, and civil servants must make up their minds to obey orders and conform to the rules of the service. Ordinarily the only alternative is conform or resign. The service could never be maintained in an efficient condition if it were otherwise, and the public welfare requires that it be kept in an efficient condition. The position in which the Post Office clerks were placed, however, was exceptional, and their breach of discipline was so slight—cessation of work for a few hours—that it was felt that allowances could be made for them without setting up a dangerous precedent; so the employees, after some unavailing delay, have been completely reinstated.

Messrs. Earle and Prior have done their

duty in this matter from the first. They protested vigorously against the threatened withdrawal of the provisional allowance, and they were unceasing in their efforts to procure the reinstatement of the employees and the payment of the arrears of the allowance to all of them. That they have been successful is a matter of no little gratification to themselves and to their fellow-citizens, for the clerks and carriers had with them the sympathy of the whole community.

TALKS FROM ARMENIA.

There is a suspicion abroad that many of the stories of Turkish outrage in Armenia are gross exaggerations or really inventions. It is said that the farther East you travel the less reliable is the news you hear. News is manufactured there, not for merely sensational purposes as it is sometimes in the Western regions, but to create sympathy. It has been found that some of the stories that have travelled West are wholly untrue, and it is suspected that some others will be proved to be altogether unworthy of credit. Rev. Dr. Hamlin, an American missionary in Turkey, the founder of the Robert College, in Constantinople, has written a letter to the Boston Congregationalist, which contains some statements that show that there are Armenians in the East who are doing something infinitely worse than inventing blood-curdling stories to horrify the Christian communities of the West. The following is an extract from Dr. Hamlin's letter:

An Armenian revolutionary party is causing great evil and suffering to the missionary work and to the whole Christian population of certain parts of the Turkish Empire. It is managed . . . with a skill in deceit which is known only in the East. In a widely distributed pamphlet particulars are given of the aims of the Hunahaghi revolutionary party in Armenia. The headquarters are at Athens, and it has branches in every village and city in Armenia. An intelligent Armenian, who speaks English correctly, assured me that they have the strongest hopes of preparing the way for Russia to take possession. These Hunahaghi bands organized all over the Empire will watch their opportunities to kill Turks and Kurds, set fire to their villages, and then make their escape into the mountains. The enraged Moslems will then rise and fall upon the defenceless Armenians and slay them with such barbarities that Russia will enter in the name of humanity and Christian civilization, and take possession. When I denounced the scheme as atrocious and infernal, he replied "Europe listened to the Bulgarian horrors and made Bulgaria free. Europe will listen to our cry when it goes up in the shrieks of women and children." Dr. Hamlin continues: "In Turkey the Hunahaghi party aims to excite the Turks against Protestant missionaries and against Protestants in general. . . . All the troubles at Marsova originate in their movements. They are cunning, unprincipled and cruel. They terrorize their own people. While we sympathize with the sufferings of the Armenians, we must stand aloof from such attempts contemplating the destruction of Protestant missionaries, churches and schools."

It is to be hoped that the commission of which so much has been heard will make a rigid and an impartial investigation as to the truth of the reports that have come from Armenia. Its members ought within a reasonable time to find out whether these reports are faithful descriptions of what has actually taken place or the inventions of news manufacturers who have calculated upon making money out of the sympathy and benevolence of Western Christians. It is hard to believe that all the reports of outrages in Armenia are lies, but it is quite as hard to realize that they are the unvarnished truth. That there is some truth in them there cannot be a doubt, for there could hardly be so much smoke where there is no fire. What almost everyone who there is to know now is not so much, are these horrible accounts of Turkish atrocities in Armenia true, as how much truth, if any, is there in these accounts. It has come to be generally believed that they must be taken with some grains of allowance.

AN AUTOCRATIC PRESIDENT.

Mexico has had what may be fairly called a settled government for the last eleven years and more. This is because it has been favored with a President of much more than ordinary integrity and ability. Porfirio Diaz's third term of office will expire in November 1896, and the Mexicans who take an interest in politics are asking each other who is to be his successor?

The constitution was changed to make him eligible for re-election in 1887, and if another change is required to make him eligible in 1896 it can no doubt be easily effected. The President in Mexico is, as far as powers and prerogatives go, a very different personage from the President of the United States. He is really an absolute ruler. What Diaz says in Mexico is law. The officials, from the highest to the lowest, obey his orders; the army is under his command and at his disposal, and Congress meets to do little else than register his decrees. So well understood is it that the President is master that the Mexican who presumed to dispute his authority would be laughed at.

But President Diaz makes on the whole a wise use of his authority. He enforces the laws and maintains order. He encourages progress and he has caused the national faith to be respected. He is devoted to his duties and is said to be honest and disinterested. The despotic rule of Diaz would not be tolerated in these Northern regions, but it appears to be just the sort of Government that suits the people of the Southern part of the continent.

Diaz belongs to the native race. He is a pure or nearly pure Indian. This causes him to be very popular in the country, for the greater part of the population is descended from the aboriginal races. The President owes very little of his eminence to the schools, for he did not learn to write until after he had married his second wife. He has, however, made a good use of his

opportunities and can write Spanish well, and he can make an excellent speech in that language.

He rules Mexico with a firm hand, and under him the country has made much progress. His opponents are, however, careful how they express themselves. Political methods are very different in Mexico from what they are in Canada, and a Mexican public man would think many times and look well about him before he expressed an intention to run for the Presidency in 1896.

Although Mexico is a Republic the number of voters is very small indeed. The population of Mexico is supposed to be about twelve millions, but its white inhabitants are calculated to number not many more than half a million. The vote at national elections is said not to exceed fifty thousand. The elections appear to be carried on almost in secrecy. "Few Mexicans," we read, "are aware of the day of voting or of the places where the polls are to be held. This information is transmitted to the state governors, who hold one or more polls, at which officials and a few white land owners cast ballots. The result is transmitted by the governors to the City of Mexico." From this it may be inferred that elections in Mexico are easily engineered, and that any candidate who made himself obnoxious to the Government would stand a very poor chance of being returned. It is pretty evident that whether President Diaz is or is not a candidate for a fourth consecutive term depends pretty much upon himself. If he wants to rule four years longer, there are very few in the country who are in a position to say him nay. If anyone would be so bold as to set up as his competitor, Diaz could, if he liked, make it hot for him, and the probabilities are that he would like. Besides, as Diaz stands for law, order and stable government, it is likely that there are very many in the country who would like to keep him in the President's chair as long as he can sit in it. They know what Diaz is, but they cannot tell what his successor would be like.

TEACHERS IN SESSION.

The initial regular meeting for 1895 of the Victoria Teachers' Institute was held yesterday afternoon, when the old question of re-considering the hour of holding the Association meetings was settled by a unanimous vote to retain the present time (2:30 p.m.).

The next question dealt with was the question of extending the noon intermission. By the terms of the School Act, boards of school trustees have authority to alter school hours so that a recess may be given from 12 to 1:30, provided the afternoon session be lengthened half an hour. The Victoria School Board are about to put the question, and the teachers are too late to object. The board and the parents of city school children. Mr. Netherby was appointed returning officer by the board, and the ballot papers will be sent out before the parents all sides of the question is raised.

A vote of the Association on this matter was taken, the teachers as a body being in favor of retaining the present hours. The question was then taken up by the trustees. Four o'clock in summer is too late for obtaining good work from tired children, an additional half hour at noon would mean additional opportunity for getting into mischief, and the creation of new schools has made it possible for nearly all pupils to go home to lunch and return within an hour.

Mr. St. Clair's paper on the advantages of physical culture was listened to with marked attention. It was an able and scholarly production. A vote of thanks was tendered to the author, coupled with a request that he allow it to be published.

The next paper dealt with the law of heredity, especially in its connection with the education of the young. At its conclusion the house was divided against itself. Mr. Tait, Mr. McNellie and Mr. Paul strongly upheld Mr. Heath's views; Miss Cameron, Mr. Muir and Miss Arrowsmith attacked his theories, questioned the truth of his evidence for proof. The discussion which ensued became pertinent and spirited.

Trustee Marchant (who was present) contended that no child is predisposed to evil; Mr. Diaz, who dogmatically asserted that all sinners in Adam.

The question of teachers' salaries was the last discussed, and a committee of twelve was appointed to collect statistics of salaries in other places with a view to instituting a comparison.

The meeting then adjourned. Taking advantage of the powers granted by the school act the trustees board will next Tuesday submit to the parents and teachers the question as to the proposed extension of the noon recess from one hour to one hour and a half, with the addition of half an hour to the afternoon session. Mr. Netherby, the returning officer, will supply parents and guardians with ballot papers on Monday and these will be returnable the following morning.

SUPPOSED MURDER.

PORT BLAKELY, Jan. 10.—The finding of the mutilated and half-rotten remains of a well-dressed unknown man near Eagle harbor on Monday has resulted in an investigation tending to prove the man the victim of the most diabolical murder in the history of Kitapo county. The victim was well dressed and apparently about 40 years old. Nothing was found on the remains which would lead to identification, except two pairs of bow shoes, one of steel and the other a gold rimmed pair bearing stamped initials "C.J." It is believed the man had been dead a month or more.

The body was found by Robert Empett, a farmer living near Port Blakely, who was out hunting near Eagle harbor. The Gibson place consists of a few acres cleared, on which stands a dilapidated and deserted farm house, and near by is a small house in sad need of repair. As Empett crossed the clearing his attention was attracted by an obnoxious odor from the direction of the main house. Inside the house, lying on its back, was the half decomposed and partly burned body of a man. The feet had been gnawed off by animals and birds, and the hands and whole right side of the body were burned away. The fire did not reach his chin, but the whole head was far gone with decay. It was apparent that the man had been taken to the farm house, where his days had evidently built a fire on his breast for the purpose of concealing his crime by burning the body.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder. Awarded Gold Medal Midwinter Fair, San Francisco.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

First Session of the Seventh Parliament.

THIRTIETH DAY.

THURSDAY, Jan. 10, 1896.
The Speaker took the chair at 2 p.m. Prayers by Rev. G. Clement King.
Mr. Kennedy introduced a bill to amend the public school act amendment act. Read a first time.

VETERINARY PRACTICE.

DR. WALKER moved the second reading of the bill to regulate the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery in British Columbia. He considered the bill to be in the interest of the public at large, and more especially of those who own herds of cattle. He thought there is no profession in the world where quackery is more extensively carried on than in the practice of treating cattle for disease, hitherto carried on by "know alls" without proper qualifications as veterinary surgeons. The bill provides that only persons who have regularly obtained certificates of qualification shall be permitted to use that name. It provides for the registration of those qualified and the examination of those desiring to be registered, including those who as farriers are to a limited extent conversant with the treatment of ordinary disease, and who, it is thought, may obtain a fair amount of business without having to pass an examination so strict as that required by the colleges.
MR. SEMLIN, not having had an opportunity of looking into the provisions of the bill, asked that the bill be deferred until he could do so, and he therefore moved the adjournment of the debate.
Debate accordingly adjourned until Monday.

CATTLE BRANDS.

The house went into committee on the bill respecting the registration of cattle brands (Mr. Prentice), with Mr. Williams in the chair.
MR. MURTER objected to the provision against recording marks "which shall mean or consist of the cutting off of both ears of the animals," because he thought it does not go far enough, and that neither should the cutting off of one ear be permitted to be recorded.

HON. MR. MARTIN, as one who has had considerable experience of cattle raising, explained the necessity for provision such as this, as it often happens that ears which have been branded are frozen off, and unscrupulous persons having registered marks consisting of cutting off both ears have claimed that these cattle have their brands. The ears have also been unlawfully cut off to destroy the brand, this constituting what is known as the "brand's mark."
DR. WALKER wanted to know how the Chief Commissioner would like to have someone coming round his house trying to catch him so that he could cut off his ears. He opposed the bill as he considered that the practice it deals with is altogether cruel.

HON. MR. MARTIN—I'd cut your tongue off if I caught you at that. (Laughter.)
MR. PRENTICE explained that the bill is in the direction of diminishing cruelty, as the statute now permits cutting off both ears.
HON. MR. DAVIS agreed with his colleague from Cowichan-Alberni that to permit the cutting off of even one ear is a piece of cruelty. He would like to know where the statute is which permits cutting off both ears, he considered that any person who has inflicted any such unnecessary cruelty has done it in violation of the criminal law. He thought the bill in its present shape is anything but creditable to the person responsible for it.

MR. GRAHAM considered the bill would prevent cruelty, by stopping dishonest persons from cutting off the ears to obliterate marks.
MR. KENNEDY said he heard, as he rose, someone remark that he didn't know any thing about cattle, but he could say that he did know what he saw about it. He thought the bill contemplated nothing more cruel than docking horses' tails or cutting off the ears or tails of dogs. Though the member for the North Sea said he was not a day on the subject of cruelty, he would like to ask whether that gentleman ever vaccinated anyone or draws teeth, as physicians sometimes do, inflicting great cruelty. (Hear, hear.)

MR. RITCHIE thought the object of the bill is to prevent cruelty.

MR. SMITH favored the bill as introduced. Several amendments were proposed and negatived, and the clause passed after much more discussion.
Bill reported second time without amendments.

THE BUILDINGS CONTRACT.

MR. WILLIAMS, from the committee on the parliamentary buildings contract, presented a report asking authority for employing a stenographer.
HON. MR. DAVIS thought that the purpose of the committee could be served without the expense connected with the employment of a stenographer. He suggested that the secretary might take down all the material portions of the evidence in long-hand and copy it, as he naturally would, as he went along.

MR. KITCHEN agreed with this view.
MR. WILLIAMS, however, thought that it would facilitate the business to have a stenographer, especially as the bill has been considered by the committee had other demands upon their time.
Motion agreed to.

COYOTE BOUNTY.

MR. GRAHAM asked: Upon what date was the bounty on coyotes lowered? What reasons were assigned for the lowering of the bounty?
HON. MR. TURNER—On the 22nd of August, 1894, because the government considered it to be too high.

NAKUP & SLOAN RAILWAY.

MR. SEMLIN asked: (a) Have the government any information as to the truth of reports current that the employees of contractors for the Nakup & Sloan Railway Company have large unvested claims against the company? (b) Have the Canadian Pacific railway signed the lease for said railway? (c) Have the Canadian Pacific railway accepted the line as complete? (d) Have the government allowed the Nakup & Sloan railway company to receive the full amount of the debenture guarantee? (e) Is there any possibility of the unpaid employees pleading upon the railway?
HON. MR. DAVIS replied:—(a) Inquiry shows that there are some claims against the contractors for the Nakup & Sloan railway, but there is no reason for believing that the persons having such claims are in any danger of losing them. (b) No lease has been signed beyond the agreement, laid before the legislative assembly at its last session. (c) The Canadian Pacific Railway Company on the 31st December ultimo accepted the road as complete, subject to some trifling deficiencies which cannot be remedied until the spring, but the responsibility of which the government has agreed to assume to the extent of \$3,000. The government will either deduct such amount from the final estimate, coming to the company, or else take satisfactory security from them therefor. (d) The Nakup & Sloan Rail-

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

way Company have not yet received the full amount of the debenture guarantee, but are about to do so. (e) I do not think that a lien could be successfully placed upon the railway.

THE PROVINCIAL BILLOT.

MR. McPHERSON moved the second reading of his bill to amend the election regulation act. Its object, he explained, is to secure absolute secrecy, so that a ballot paper can not be followed up as at present to ascertain how anyone voted.

HON. MR. DAVIS could not agree that there is any necessity for such a bill, the security alleged to exist under the law as at present being much more fancied than real, whilst the bill now before the house would entail positive injury in another direction. The secrecy of the ballot cannot at present be violated except by transgressing the law to such an extent as to constitute a criminal offence; and moreover the ballots after they are counted and sealed are accessible only to officers of the government sworn to secrecy, and even in their case it is difficult matter to get at the ballots without discovery. There is only one contingency upon which the ballots may lawfully be subjected to scrutiny, that being when upon a trial before the courts the question arises whether or not a candidate has been returned through the casting of ballots by persons not qualified to vote. If the court comes to the conclusion that unqualified persons have voted, then their ballots can be removed from the box, being identified by the numbers placed upon them. The plan now proposed would prevent such a scrutiny, no matter what injustice might result. The consequence would simply be that whenever it was discovered that persons had voted without having the right to do so, the only remedy would be to void the election, though perhaps those improper votes might have been cast for and at the instance of the unsuccessful candidate, and had no effect upon the return. The proper plan, he maintained, is that in force at present. The examination of the ballots which it makes possible very rarely occurs, in fact he could recall only the one instance, when upon the election in Esquimalt being contested a judge of the Supreme court found that three or four votes had been improperly cast, and as the results would be affected by this number the ballot papers were plucked out, and without those discarded being examined, those remaining were counted afresh. If a man were found to have received half a dozen electors it would be impossible to pick out his ballots, which by law are void, and the innocent candidate would be put to the trouble and expense of a new election. As he had said before, the objections to the existing act are more fanciful than real. The ballot boxes are locked up in the custody of the registrar of the Supreme court, and there they safely remain, being under the watchful eye of the officers of the court; and there being not even a suggestion that in the past the secrecy of the ballot box has not been maintained he would oppose this bill.

MR. SEMLIN spoke in support of the measure, because he had for many years endeavored to vote because he thought the manner in which they marked their ballots could be discovered.

The question being put, the house divided 13 for and 13 against, the votes of two or three members who came in after the question had been put and held up their hands with the "nays" not being accepted. The Speaker decided that following the English practice he would vote for the second reading of the bill, to allow it to be further discussed.
Bill read a second time.

ALIENS ON PUBLIC WORKS.

MR. BRADEN moved the second reading of the bill to prohibit the employment of other than British subjects on provincial or municipal work. He argued that the bill was also to establish a legal working day of eight hours as a legal working day. He showed that the United States have passed similar laws whereby Canadians are prohibited from being employed on such work, county or other municipal works. He argued that the laboring man ought to be protected in this way, just as the same as the lawyers, doctors and others have been by the acts passed by the house. He did not consider that the government was anything by accepting outside tenders for public works, such as the bridge at Ashcroft, for instance, because foreigners bring their workmen with them, and they take out of the country nearly all the money they earn without paying any taxes in license or otherwise. He mentioned also the Victoria city case, where the corporation gave a sewerage contract to a foreigner who brought in nearly all his workmen and left them here when the job was finished.

THE SPEAKER said he was afraid he would have to refer the hon. member to the B.N.A. act, section 91, whereby the matter of dealing with alien laws is reserved for the Dominion. That part of it, being therefore, in his opinion, beyond the authority of the house, he would have to rule the bill out of order.

HON. MR. DAVIS thought that the matter is by no means so clear as would first appear upon perusal of section 91 of the B.N.A. act, which declares that the exclusive legislative authority of the parliament of Canada extends to the subject of naturalization and aliens. He thought, however, that the words of that section are not intended to have the exhaustive effect implied in this ruling; and at all events this house has in the past enacted legislation in relation to aliens quite as much in contravention of that interpretation of the B.N.A. act as the bill now before the house can be held to be. He had looked up the Ontario statute, and he found that such a law as that proposed has

been passed by that province. He instanced the act prohibiting aliens from serving on juries, and the bill of his own now before the house to prevent the names of Chinese and Japanese being placed upon the voters' list, as evidence of the assumption by the legislature of the right to deal with aliens, and also instances of the law prohibiting them from holding real estate. The question of naturalization is quite a different thing, and it being perfectly clear that we have the power to the fullest extent to deal with civil rights, we must logically assume that we have the power to restrict the rights of aliens just as much as to restrict our own rights. He did not wish at this stage to deal with the principle or with the details of the bill, because in view of a condition of affairs which at that moment he had in his mind he thought it questionable whether it is expedient to enact the bill in its present shape, though there are some excellent features in it.

THE SPEAKER said while he ruled the bill out of order as the present, he would like the house to decide upon the point, and would not complain should his ruling be upset. He would bring the matter up himself in a day or two if no person else did; and in the meantime the bill might remain in its present position upon the orders of the day.

PROVINCIAL VOTERS BILL.

HON. MR. DAVIS moved the second reading of the provincial voters bill, the object of which, he explained, is to add Japanese to the list of those who are to be prohibited from having their names on the voters' list. MR. KITCHEN wanted to know by what authority any man can be prevented from voting if he is a British subject by naturalization or otherwise.

HON. MR. DAVIS said he thought there is no doubt about the authority. There is, he might mention, at the present time a treaty in process of negotiation or final ratification between England and Japan whereby after its passage no province will be able to pass such a law as this. If therefore we desire to enact such legislation now is the time for it.

MR. COTTON said as he understood it the position is that the treaty is already concluded between England and Japan, but up to a certain time Canada has the option of saying whether or not she will come within the scope of its operation. On this point he was informed, the Dominion government is anxious to obtain the views of the provinces, and especially of British Columbia. MR. SEMLIN pointed out that this treaty will not affect Japanese who are naturalized British subjects.
Bill read a second time.

LIFE INSURANCE.

HON. MR. DAVIS moved the second reading of the bill to secure to wives and children the benefit of life insurance. The scope of the measure, he said, is embodied in its title. He thought all would agree that a man's wife and children are to a large extent dependent upon him for their support, and that it is not infrequently his savings are suddenly swept away by a sudden blow. At the present time the opportunities of securing life insurance are much more favorable than ever before, and a man insuring his life, as everyone should do, at an early age has no means to keep on paying premiums for a lifetime. Provided the amount which a man insures for is not altogether out of proportion to his estate there is no equity at all in preferring any other creditor to his wife and children, and the object of this bill is therefore to authorize a husband either to have his policy made payable to his wife and children, or make an endorsement upon its face to that effect, which will ensure the amount of the policy being so disposed of. An attempt in this direction was made twenty years ago in the married woman's property act, but in a very imperfect way, and the Ontario act from which that appears to have been copied has been extended from time to time on its face, but it is largely a copy of the Ontario act, with a few changes which are considered as improvements upon that statute. The act at present in force in this province is rather an anomaly otherwise, as many a man who is unfortunately in debt may think that his life insurance in the name of his wife or child, or in favor of anyone he chooses, is not in the case of his death provision which in reality he can take from her.

Bill read a second time.

THE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE ON THE COMPANIES ACT.

THE HOUSE again went into committee on the bill respecting the government of cities, Mr. Sward in the chair; the amendment by Mr. KITCHEN to extend the privilege of voting upon its application to all those entitled to vote for mayor and aldermen being the matter first coming under consideration. The amendment was immediately put and lost on division.
MR. KITCHEN moved another amendment to the effect that the persons entitled to vote upon the bill shall be all those who, under the municipal act, have the right to vote on money by-law. His object was, he said, to make the franchise uniform in all the cities.
HON. MR. DAVIS asked if the hon. member seriously meant to disfranchise all the electors of Vancouver and Westminster.
MR. WILLIAMS—That is just what he wants.
HON. MR. POOLEY pointed out that as the

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EVERY PAIR GUARANTEED.
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