vote for the bill; if not, gainst it.

proceeded to dwell upon hip that had been worked nt residents of Esquimalt st session, many of whom taken a great interest in e province since 1871. The been accustomed to vote en "C" Battery coming East the officers and men d at the old agricultural placed on the voters' list Victoria. Afterwards "C" removed to Work Point. ld these men not be put s' list, the senior member asked? When they comply sual requirements of the re men of far more than gence, all picked men, and standard of intelligence. lived outside of barracks, homes, and have just as st in all that concerns the y other citizens. It is a this natural and desirable hem. These people wanted idges, etc., and there was they should be asked if to become permanent resi- e than that any civilian if in permanently, he having the requirements as to province and the districts? reason why a man wearing uniform should be declared No other legislature would a proposition. In England as given a vote so soon as e rank of sergeant and had own in barracks, or if he barracks, being thereby k as a householder. It was estion of qualification, and ciple might very safely pre- e men of the service com- three, five or more years titled to vote. The people were very glad to have mong them, and found them uch profit. He would vote

reading was negatived by ssrs. Martin and Higgins he government.

When the Redistribution ched, the Premier being government applause as he the second reading.

SEMLIN said the bill was n endeavor to place as ible equal electoral pow- fluence in the hands ctor of British Columbia. umed, had been the object of ts at redistribution, to which to refer. He instanced the ical importance of Kootenay which in early days had their increased with growth of y and reduced with its wane, I in substance as follows:

ard the argument advanced. we should increase represen- ould not decrease it. I have idents just referred to in or- that former legislatures did. t wrong, and they had to deal umstances as they arose. I ls argument I have referred dvanced by people who have hort time in the province and acquainted with the con- have prevailed in former legis- then dealt briefly with early e representation of Cowichan district, and proceeded: "In of the present government in opposition it was considered tribution of cities should be population alone, but by area wing to the population, area ance from the capital of the other words, that compared es there should be a represen- hose ridings convenient to the ch should be compared with gst themselves, and that there third basis of representation and partially settled communi- province. These various at- he past have never succeeded the vote of the country on the I have indicated, but in the at- overnment has now made we have come nearer to that com- n ever been reached by for- ments, and although we cannot a perfect bill, it is an advance that has been submitted to the or the same purpose. We have without any reference to local- have endeavored to deal with mbia as British Columbia with- erence to the geographical situ-

on, gentlemen opposite in speak- bill call it a gerrymander. Well hat if that term can be applied it should have been applied with force to preceding bills. What ander? As I understand it, it is party in power distributes the ion for the purpose of gaining the purpose of increasing its w what has this government ard to this bill? We have re- representation of Esquimalt by earlier days Cariboo's represen- decreased by one. Esquimalt e control of the government at It is contiguous to the Capital. f those constituencies in which ion has not increased in compari- her parts of the province. We in order to equalize the voting the various ridings it is only Esquimalt should be represented mber in this house and that one the floor of this house is giving alt a large percentage of repre- How are we going to gain in nlar? That is what I presume ends referred to when they used gerrymander. I do not see how increase the power of the party n this respect. Then you take n to restore very nearly the for- n Cowichan. How is this party s its position by annexing the Cowichan? I claim that in so t riding is concerned we have gain by the redistribution we We are endeavoring to carry inciples of equalizing votes. Then take the distribution upon the There has been no change of tion in Cariboo except to separ- onstituency into two ridings in- aving a cumulative vote, which more convenient to the voters representatives. Then we come undary Creek, where we form a ituency composed of a part of and Boundary Creek.

Turner—It is a part of Rossland.

Semlin—What is now Rossland, under the last redistribution part of Yale. Now I have not Lillooet. That is a large dis- has been represented on the e house by two members for rs past. We propose to reduce entation to one member. And re I presume by hon. friends e gerrymander comes in. I think reful consideration of the facts will find this is only justice to districts. Take Lillooet as a l also West Yale—they abut. The ength of West Yale is 620. The ength of Lillooet is about 600, or all proportion in favor of West king the settled portions of West Lillooet you will find that, leav- the area alone and taking the rtions of the district, they com- closely. And how can we justify members to Lillooet and only

tinued on Seventh Page.)

Exposed In The House

(Continued from Sixth Page.)

one to West Yale when there is comparatively no difference in the voting strength and no difference in the area settled. True, a railway traverses a portion of West Yale, but you will find that there are parts of West Yale as remote from settlement as settled parts of Lillooet we are placing that district on a par with some of the adjoining districts. I do not compare it with population or area of Cariboo, which abuts on the north, but I have chosen West Yale because the conditions and interests are much the same. They are pastoral, agricultural and mining constituencies. Taking the comparison as a whole, I think you will find that West Yale being only entitled to one representative, we should not be justified in giving more than one to Lillooet. I do not compare Lillooet with Cariboo because the conditoins are much different. We can allow Cariboo to be represented by two members and no injustice will be done to other districts.

Now in regard to West Kootenay, we have in that community one almost entirely mining; and we have a population that is rapidly increasing. The returns laid before the house to-day will satisfy you as to the number and the rapidity of the growth of the voting strength of Kootenay, and it is impossible for this house or this country to close its eyes to the rapidly increasing importance of that country. It must be properly represented; it is a country that will assert itself, and he have endeavored to meet the requirements by increasing the representation. I think I have touched upon the various districts that are being affected by this bill, and I have referred to matters that have taken place in the past. I have done that to show that we are not introducing any novel features; we are not departing from what has been done in the past, but we are simply following the precedents set by former legislatures, and are endeavoring to work upon the lines that have been laid down, but are bringing those lines nearer to justice than the legislatures were able to affect in the past. I think we have succeeded in this—I am satisfied myself that we have done so, and I hope that the bill will commend itself to the legislature, and that honorable members will vote for the second reading. (Government applause.)

MR. TURNER—Before this bill is read a second time it requires the most serious consideration. There were several points to be considered as to the advisability of this bill. Why was this bill introduced, how was it introduced, what was it introduced for, and how did it originate?

He might, in reference to the first point mentioned—why was the bill introduced?—go back to the time of the last election. As to the statements made in the house during the session, at any rate during the last session, one of the reasons given by the late government—he would not admit that the government was defeated—was not in power last session was that the redistribution measure brought down by them had thrown them out. He had been a great deal over the country during the election last year, and redistribution was never made a question in any district which he had visited. He had visited first many important points in the Kootenays and along the line of the C. P. R.; then gone to Chilliwack and to points on the Island, and the question was certainly not made a consideration at that time. The electors in all parts of the province were much more in earnest in regard to matters tending to open up and develop the country. It was not necessary here to enlarge on these matters again, but the charge made by the then opposition was not with regard to redistribution at that time. The issue chosen by the opposition candidates was that the government had been very extravagant, run the country into debt, and did not spend money properly, and they did many other things which have been already referred to in the house. No member was lost to the government side of the house by reason of the late redistribution bill. The reason this bill was brought in now was something in the nature of the charges the government had levelled at the late government. He must admit that the present government had during its lease of office been utterly discredited in the province. He did not think there was any question about that. They need only turn to the conditions last year for proof of that, which would show that the government was not only discredited throughout the province, but was also discredited in Europe. This was owing to the legislation passed during the parliament. It was the first time British Columbia had ever been in the position of being taunted as the province that refused to meet its obligations. That was what that discrediting amounted to, and, rightly or wrongly, the matter is constantly referred to, and worked to the injury of the province. In Europe and important financial centres this province had been referred to as the province that repudiated its obligations. This was a very serious state of affairs. It could not fail to have the effect of injuring the credit of the province. This had been clearly demonstrated since the opening of the house, the credit of the province having decreased even since that time. Last June the credit of this province was higher than that of Nova Scotia, but it was now much lower. And that was one of the reasons, or part of the reason, why this bill had been brought in. The government had run the country into a bad condition, and the people were now asking for something. But before he went on to that he would refer to the complaint that had been made at the last election. He would refer to the complaints during last campaign as to what the late government was doing with respect to the district of Cassiar, but since the present bill made no change it is evident that the provision made by the late government for Cassiar was good. That fact carries on its face the refutation of the charge that the late government attempted to gerrymander the district of Cassiar. The attitude of the late government with respect to that district was perfectly correct. What the country was asking for was legislation of a character that would again tend to raise the credit of British Columbia, open up and develop the country and tend to tide over the difficulties being forced upon the country by the action of the government in bringing into conflict labor and capital. Legislation that would enable the province to make progress was what the people wanted. But instead of that the government came down with a redistribution bill. The people asked for bread and the government gave them a stone. That was all they had to offer in reply to the wants of the people. This is why the bill was brought in—it is the hope of retaining office. Now, how was it brought in? When this bill was introduced the other day he had got up to speak to it and make inquiry as to the information that was to be furnished with it. But at that time a map was placed on his desk, and he thought it was a plan of the new districts, but, to his astonishment, upon investigation the map he found was the old map of 1898, with the old boundaries as laid out by the legislature of that year. And that was the thing the government had placed before the house to elucidate the complicated measure which they had brought in. He had taken a pencil and gone over this map, but it was impossible to make anything definite out of it. Having been made on the lines of the old map, it was most difficult to discover where the delimitations came in. Why did the government make use of this old map of 1898? The attempt to use this map to elucidate the bill they had brought in was an absurdity on the face of it. It just showed the condition of affairs. The government had no idea of bringing in a redistribution bill; to prove this it was only necessary to turn to the Lieutenant-Governor's speech to see clearly that the government at that time had no intention of bringing a redistribution measure forward. The speech stated that a member would be given to Boundary district, a district that required a member if any district in the province did, but that was the length and breadth and depth of this bill that the government had proposed bringing in; there was nothing else to it. The government this session was largely occupied in undoing the legislation that had been passed at the last session. He did not think that anything of importance had been passed at the present session of the house. Not a private bill had gone through; the government have depended for safety on the casting vote of the Speaker, and they have not been able to bring in any legislation of importance to the country, and they had thought at the last moment that this bill would save them; they would run this through the house without attracting too much attention, without maps or information upon which to base an opinion as to the merits or the demerits of the measure.

It had been said that some people on this side of the house had described this bill as a gerrymander bill. Bills had often been described as that, and he had had the curiosity to look up the word in the dictionary, and he was much interested to find that it was originally used in the state of Massachusetts, where a bill was once brought up in the time of Governor Gerry. As that bill was the most nondescript thing that ever was seen in those parts, and nobody could make head or tail of it, they called it first the salamander bill, the salamander being a reptile of interesting habits and varied hues. At that time there was a governor named Gerry who was wrongly supposed to be interested in the bill, but his name was used, and it came to be called, probably through the resemblance of sound, the Gerrymander bill, and the term spread throughout the United States to signify a measure to make improper use of the powers of legislation. The government had not given this present plan any title, and he did not know what sort of animal it was like unless it was a centipede.

This bill was brought in without information of any kind with respect to the probable number of voters in the new districts. The list of voters at the last general elections would be no help whatever. Some districts are carved up so that it is impossible to recognize them. In the Revelstoke district, for example, no doubt it had been noticed a corner was cut off.

Mr. Kellie—Say what you said last. (Laughter.)

Mr. Turner—Well, no matter, I'll say it again; quite a corner has been cut off because the people objected——

Mr. Kellie—Will you name the point cut off?

Mr. Turner—No; I am not going to name the point, but if the hon. gentleman will take the floor I will give way and take a rest. The hon. gentleman need not ask me for the point: he knows the district very well. I must commend him for his wisdom in cutting off that point.

The next point about the bringing in of this bill was the object. The object was that the government recognized that there was a demand in the province for some kind of legislation, and this is what they give the province in place of wise legislation. The object was to try to save the government. Everyone knew what the position of the government was from looking at the course of events during the last few weeks. He felt sorry for the government he knew what the position must be, hanging on by a thread, to which any member sitting on the opposite side of the house might apply the knife at any moment, and where would they be then?

Government cries of, "Let her go!" and laughter.

Mr. Turner asked again where the government would be if the knife were applied. The ministers would be in the position to say with the late Cardinal Wolsey: "Alas! a long farewell to all my greatness." (Laughter.) They debate and attempt to carry on the business of the country and cannot bring in any other legislation but this bill in the hope that it may tide off the downfall that is before them. He did not think the country wanted redistribution at all, but legislation for opening and developing the country would be preferred to any redistribution measure now forced on them by the government. The government tried to force it down the electors' throats that they must have redistribution, or they would never get a fair deal. The fact was that there had always been a fair deal in British Columbia. Though some portions were perhaps under-represented and some over-represented at the same time those that were under-represented never had under-expenditure in the district. The remotest districts were fairly treated, and had always been, so far as lay in the power of the government to do so. In a new country, of course, redistribution bills were wanted more often than in old and settled communities, but it was an awful mistake for any country to be always changing its electoral districts. One effect was to make general elections more frequent, and that had a tendency to make the representatives of the districts little more than delegates. There was some reason in having a redistribution measure in the life of the parliament of the province, that is every four years, and at the end of the present parliament, supposing the present government kept in power, they would be able to give a fair and reasonable measure of redistribution to the province. The changes in the province during the past few years been very great, but in the next few years the changes would be even greater. Some places that were populous a few years ago, were now reduced in population, and others who where without any population at that time were now quite important places. This was especially the case in mining districts. In two years' time there would be a census of the province and this would enable the government to gain accurate information as to the voting strength of the more distant districts, which were growing very rapidly. He pointed out that in a few years there would be a greater permanency of population in the mining regions, as many miners would bring their families and settle down there, and he held that the districts that have the largest proportion of families to the population were entitled to more representation than those which had a large unmarried population, which might shift at any time. The present, however, was a most inopportune time to introduce a measure like this. If the government had taken the proper precautions they would have been in the position to come to the house fully provided with all necessary information, including maps and plans. As it was, there was not a member in the house who could say what proportion of voters those districts had which the government proposed to gerrymander. He could not go into details of the matter, because there was no information upon which to go, and the gentlemen opposite did not know anything about the matter. He mentioned the case of Alberni as an instance of a district with a very small population and few voters, this bill retained a member there as he supported them, but Cowichan district adjoining the now doubled up so that it has over 1,000 voters, yet they strike off a member. It was curious to find that no members were taken from the districts which were supposed to support the government; they were all, strange to say, taken from the districts believed to be in favor of the opposition. But they could hardly blame the government; they were in a desperate position, and had to do something. They had put out this bill in the hope that they would get a few more members on that side of the house. But they would find themselves grievously mistaken. The people were not taken in with any such chaff as that.

How did this bill originate? The other day the government had no idea of bringing in a redistribution bill, but a certain gentleman who had formerly been a supporter of that government had asked them to bring in a measure of that kind, and a redistribution bill had been brought in. The leader of the government was in reality on this (the opposition) side of the house. This measure had been brought in not at the request, but at the demand of that gentleman; at his command it was introduced, and was to be rushed forward. There could be no doubt but that he was the master of the assembly.

There were many reasons why this redistribution bill should not have been brought in, and one of these was in connection with the treatment of certain cities of the province with respect to the voters lists. That was a very serious charge to bring against any government. He referred to the purging of the voters lists of Vancouver city, Victoria and other cities, and said it was a legal question if anything could be done to have these voters' lists properly dealth with. Large numbers of voters, some of whom had resided here and in other cities of the province affected by this action of the government were excluded from those lists. It was found impossible to get their names on. He himself had had the greatest difficulty in so doing. A friend had telegraphed to him in London and he had sent out the necessary application. Many people who had gone to Atlin had been swept off the roll in Victoria. Mr. Helmcken would support him in that statement. In the circumstances it was a most unfair thing of the government to bring in a measure of this kind for which they were not in any way prepared. The position of the government at the present time did not warrant them in bringing in such a bill; they barely get anything through the house; they tremble at every vote.

Government members—Hear, hear.

Mr. Turner—"Well it is the fact. When you go in you do not know whether you will ever come out." They shake to think what may happen at any moment, when they find themselves gone up into the soup. (Laughter.) It was certainly no time for such a government to bring in such a measure as this, which proposed to sweep away some representatives, and to carve up others to suit themselves. They knew very well that this was meant to create little pocket boroughs. He need not name them; the government thought they knew of certain places in the province which they considered they could comfortably put in their pockets.

What had the government done—though the act provided for the purging the lists of the four cities, and was brought in especially with reference to Vancouver and Victoria, and at the time of its introduction it had been pointed out by the senior member from Vancouver that probably 25 per cent of the names on the Vancouver and probably 40 per cent of the Victoria lists would be struck off, but what does the government do? Why suddenly they have the voters' lists of Victoria and Westminster cancelled, but leave Vancouver and Nanaimo to stand as they were. The effect has been to strike off hundreds from the Victoria list, some of whom have been resident for many years—some happened to be away at Atlin or some other point, and owing to the method taken by the government could not get on.

MR. KELLIE, following Mr. Turner, said that the opposition leader seemed to think that a pocket-borough had been created for him (Mr. Kellie), and that he was afraid to meet the people who had in the past sent him to the legislature——

"I never said so," observed Mr. Turner; "I made no reference to you whatever."

Mr. Kellie had interpreted his remarks as being addressed to him, and reminded the opposition that they had much the same sort of remarks to make in 1898, when they had declared that he would not come back to the house. Yet he had come back, and with a big majority. The weakness of the opposition leader's criticism was interpreted by the member for Revelstoke as showing that with every desire to find faults in the bill, he discovered that it was a very difficult task to do. Without reflecting in any way upon the districts, he thought that if any aspersions could be cast upon pocket boroughs, Esquimalt with its 300 or so live voters and 200 dead men could not escape attention. This redistribution measure had been described as an ill-considered bill forced from the government by the motion of the third member for Vancouver. He could tell the house that it was not ill-considered. It had been under careful consideration for a considerable time. The opposition had said that the government was hanging by a thread. He would be honest. He would admit that the government was existing by a very narrow majority. It was therefore all the more right that this bill should be passed and an appeal be made to the people.

Opposition voices—Is that a declaration?

Mr. Kellie replied that it was a declaration so far as he himself was concerned. As soon as the bill was passed he intended to go before his constituency and give the electors there an opportunity of saying whether or not they desired to have him continue as their representative. It had been said that he wanted to have Nakusp cut off his district. That district had had so many slices cut from it that it could scarcely be recognized. Yet it continued to grow in wealth and in population. The great district of West Kootenay was contributing one-third of the revenue of the province, while possessing one-third of the population, and it was not asking too much, therefore, to insist upon six members being given to this most important section.

MR. McPHILLIPS has been very much astonished to hear Mr. Kellie state that redistribution was one of the planks in the platform of the government. Why then had they not referred to this matter on the 4th January in the speech from the throne? Now, forsooth, this matter was of such importance that the whole of the business of the country was to be laid aside, and this measure forced through without any regard to the private bills or public bills, and the business of the country at large. In all such exigencies as the present it would be found under the British flag that before such a motion was entertained by any parliament, the government had made some statement to the house that they intended to appeal to the people as soon as the bill might pass. If the Premier would rise in his seat and give the house a formal assurance that the government purposed to appeal to the country at once, then, although this measure might not be one in the best interests of the country, he, for one, would be prepared after due consideration to accord it some measure of support. Personally, speaking without regard to anything like sectionalism, he was prepared to say that he did not think that the Mainland was over-represented. At the last election he wished to point out that on the Island 8,214 votes were cast, and on the Mainland 12,330. If that was worked out it would be found that there were 586 votes cast for every member on the Island as against 500 for each member on the Mainland. At the opening of the session apparently the government were of the opinion that but one seat—that for the Boundary district—was required for the salvation of the province. Was there anything that had transpired since that date to justify the change of front on the part of the government? This bill had not been a part of the government policy. It had been shoved down their throats by Mr. Joseph Martin, who had indicated to the government the line of policy they would have to follow, and they had adopted the policy of their enemy politically. If it was satisfactory to the Premier he would like to move the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Mr. Semlin said that he would prefer to go on for another half hour.

Mr. McPhillips said that as a matter of fact he had not much more to say. If the hon. members on the other side of the house had only listened to his warning of last session they could now have gone back to their constituents with lighter hearts, and they might have had some chance of being returned. He would always give credit to any man who was trying to exercise the best of his judgment, but that appeared to be the last thing that the government desired to do. Matters in the house were being discussed in the most cursory way, and without proper data. Let the house have some independence. The interests involved in this bill were of great magnitude, and it behooved the house to give this matter its best consideration. He could not support the motion, but was heartily in accord with the amendment. The house had not the data before it to intelligently consider the measure, and he should therefore oppose the second reading of the bill.

Mr. Higgins moved the adjournment of the debate, and the house adjourned at 10:45 until 2 o'clock to-day.

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Ministers Voted Out

Mr. Hall of Victoria Demolishes Crumbling Wreck of the Government.

Moved Previous Question and Brought Speedy Defeat of Gerrymander.

Premier Accepts Suggestion of Opposition for Adjournment to Tuesday.

The Semlin-Cotton administration met its fate at the hands of the people's elected representatives on the floor of the house yesterday afternoon, being defeated on the motion for second reading of the Redistribution bill, which the members of the ministerial party had unanimously agreed would be the best legislation upon which they could appeal to the country.

Although looked for for days, the collapse of the government when it did mature, came in somewhat unexpected manner to the public, Victoria's third member (Mr. Richard Hall) having the honor of touching the button that exploded the opposition's well-arranged mine.

It was after the second reading debate had been continued by Messrs. Higgins, Neill, Booth, Kellie, J. M. Martin, Pooley and Turner—the general discussion being so dry as to invite the match which Mr. Hall had ready to apply. His speech in doing so was neither long nor pretentious, though fruitful in important consequences.

"I would move the previous question," he said—and even the crowded galleries understood that this was intended as the motion that was to put the struggling government out of its misery. All parts of the assembly took on an expectancy and suppressed excitement, while members hurried in from restaurant or library at the summons of the division bell.

"The previous question has been moved," said Mr. Speaker Forster—"are you ready for the question?"

"AYE," shouted the opposition.

"AYE," said the government ranks quietly, realizing that the end had come.

"Shall the motion carry?"

"AYE," again chorused the triumphant opposition.

The "noes" were manifestly less vociferous.

"The 'ayes' have it, I think," said Mr. Speaker, while the members of the opposition raised a cheer in which the galleries joined enthusiastically.

Then names were called for, and duly recorded as follows:

AYE:—Messrs. Pooley, Booth, Dunsmuir, Hall, Robertson, Martin, Clifford, McBride, Helmcken, McPhillips, Irving, Ellison, Smith (A. W.), Higgins, Roberts, Turner, Baker, Bryden, and Prentice—19.

NO:—Messrs. Henderson, Semlin, Cotton, Wells, Macpherson, Smith (R.), Tisdall, Deane, Neill, Green, Kinchant, Helgesen, Munro, Kidd, Hume, McKechnie, Martin (J. M.), and Kellie—18

It remained for the main motion to be disposed of in order that the defeat of the government might be made complete, and all eyes were directed toward Mr. Joseph Martin's seat, it being well understood that he had forced the measure forward and had even expressed himself in sympathy with its principle.

When the division was called for Mr. Martin's hand was found high in air with those of members of the straight opposition party.

"How does the honorable third member for Vancouver city vote," asked Mr. Speaker, to make assurance doubly sure?

"I vote against the bill," said Mr. Martin emphatically—and the house recalled how explicit he had been in accepting the release offered him by Attorney-General Henderson a few days before, from a general promise to support a redistribution bill.

"The bill is lost," said Mr. Speaker, as the division was called and recorded.

"So is the government" called out someone in Mr. Martin's neighborhood—it may have been Mr. Martin himself—and then the pent-up enthusiasm broke forth, the Speaker's call for order in the galleries being utterly unheeded, while the rattle of desk lids on the left, the clapping of hands, and the cheering of members and spectators attested the general feeling of relief and satisfaction.

A few brief moments passed, and then Hon. Mr. Semlin rose, and with very evident agitation and a somewhat pathetic tremble in his voice, said:

"I think it is only right to ask that this house at its rising do stand adjourned until 2 o'clock on Monday next."

The honorable gentleman was promotion when the opposition leader interposed a suggestion that Tuesday be named instead.

"Very well—Tuesday," said the Premier, no longer leader of th ehouse.

The house adjourned almost immediately thereafter, Mr. Turner having expressed the hope that the government would arrange to have pending private legislation completed prior to the terminating of the session.

It was not until the members were out in the lobbies that all tongues were loosened and the crowning incidents of the day were thoroughly discussed in all their various phases. As a rule the members of the government that was accepted the defeat philosophically, as something to which they had been looking forward and were rather glad to have had come in the way it had. A few were bellicose, however, and Mr. Jos. Martin's erstwhile warm admirers—Mr. Ralph Smith and Mr. Kellie—were found holding up that doughty politician with hot upbraidings that threatened for a time to run into something yet more serious.

This, with the second chapter of the exchange of compliments between the member for South Victoria and the member for Alberni, had certainly left no one room to complain of lack of excitement in the eventful day.

The government had held the reins of power one year, six months and ten days—having come into existence on the 13th August, 1898. The several ministers in British Columbia have held office as follows, in their respective order:

McCreight ministry—Dec. 1871 to Dec. 23, 1872.

DeCosmos-Walkem ministry—Dec. 23 1872 to Jan. 27, 1876.

Elliott ministry—Feb. 1, 1876 to June 25, 1878.

Walkem ministry—June 26, 1878 to June 12, 1882.

Beaven ministry—June 13, 1882 to Jan. 30, 1883.

Smithe ministry—Jan. 29, 1883 to March 29, 1887.

Davie (A. E. B.) ministry—April 19, 1887 to Aug. 1889.

Robson ministry—Aug. 3, 1889 to June, 1892.

Davie (T.) ministry—July 2, 1892 to March, 1895.

Turner ministry—March 4, 1895 to Aug. 8, 1898.

Semlin ministry—Aug. 13, 1898 to Feb. 23, 1900.

FRIDAY, FEB. 23.

No sooner had the house met in the usual way, with prayers by Rev. Dr. Campbell, than the incident of Thursday evening between the member for South Victoria and the member for Alberni was resumed by Mr. Neill rising to a question of privilege.

Mr. Neill said that he held in his hand a copy of the Colonist, in which he found the following reference to himself; attributed to Mr. Eberts:

"When told in the lobby the news that brought mourning to so many Canadian homes, the member for Alberni had no word of sympathy or regret. He simply contented himself with the cruel comment that 'it will do away with the heady patriotism of these Canadians.' It is understood that Mr. Neill's explanation is that the callous remark was made in the course of private conversation, and therefore he thinks should not have been given public repetition."

To take the lesser charge, he held that it was a mistake to say that his objection was to a private conversation being introduced in the house, but he disputed the version given of the conversation. It had occurred not in the lobby, but in a private room, known as the members' room. Mr. Eberts had not been the one to tell him of the misfortune to the Canadians; he had heard of it before coming into the house, and had expressed due regret. The conversation with the member for South Victoria, which that gentleman had distorted, had lasted only a moment, and contained no reference whatever to the Canadians. As to the other and more serious charge, he hoped that it would not be necessary for him to work himself up into a bombastic fury as some other gentlemen appeared to regard as necessary with them, in order to convince the house that he was speaking the truth. He hoped that he would be believed when he said that he was quite prepared to take any solemn oath that neither directly nor indirectly had he made the statement attributed to him. He had asked the member for South Victoria to withdraw the statement, but that member had declined to do so, saying that he had written down the words used, and was prepared to stand by them as having been used. For himself, he (Mr. Neill) could only reiterate that he had made no reference whatever to the Canadians. The words he had used he was prepared to stand by; he had referred to the frothy mouthings of the opposition as "lip loyalty and heady patriotism"—the reference was not to the Canadians or other soldiers in any sense or connection, and the member for South Victoria well knew it. It was altogether unlikely that he should so malign the Canadian soldier—particularly as he had once been a soldier himself, and had many relatives and dear friends actively engaged in the war. He closed with another emphatic declaration that neither in word, thought, deed or action, had he cast imputations or aspersions upon the loyalty of the Canadian soldiers.

Mr. Eberts asked to be permitted to reply, and Mr. Speaker according this privilege with consent of the house, the member for South Victoria announced that he took back nothing of what he had said in regard to the insults of the members for Alberni to the soldiers of Canada, which had been correctly reported in every detail. "I take back nothing that I said yesterday on the floor of this house," said Mr. Eberts, "and I say that in attempting to get up this explanation, the member for Alberni is simply continuing in his untruth

"Mr. Speaker, I ask that that be taken down," said Mr. Neill.

"Yes take it down," said Mr. Eberts.

"It will be taken down," said Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Eberts continued that he had reported the remarks of the member for Alberni truthfully as they occurred. He had told that member of the ninety Canadians lost in battle, and the member for Alberni had said that it would take "some of the heady patriotism out of these Canadians." Nothing whatever had been said in reference to the members of the opposition; there was nothing that would have introduced any such reference; what Mr. Neill had intended to convey was that the Canadian volunteers had gone to the front with a very fine show of loyalty and patriotism, but now that they had learned the grim cost of war they would not be so eager to display their "heady patriotism." There had been no reference to any others than the Canadians; the words he had taken down at the time, in less than five seconds; and the words and connection were as quoted. He had been asked to withdraw the charge by Mr. Neill on Thursday evening, but had told him he would not do so. As he had said to him in the lobby at the time of his foul aspersion he should be ashamed of himself——

"You are a liar," said Mr. Neill half-rising in his place.

"Just come outside and say that," shouted back Mr. Eberts—"come outside now if you dare."

Mr. Speaker shouted and rapped for order, but unsuccessfully for several moments, for galleries as well as house were in uproar.

"The member for Alberni will withdraw that remark," said Mr. Speaker, as soon as he could command attention. After a moment of reluctance Mr. Neill did so.

"In deference to your official authority, Mr. Speaker," he said, "I will withdraw my statement that the honorable member for South Victoria is a liar." Then Mr. Neill insisted that the member for South Victoria should also be compelled to withdraw his charge that he (Mr. Neill) was "continuing in his untruth."

Mr. Speaker asked that this be done.

Mr. Eberts' reply was: "I will most humbly apologize to all honorable gentlemen and to you, Mr. Speaker, but I withdraw nothing. I will at all times, if in the wrong, humbly acknowledge it and ask the pardon of the house and of you, Mr. Speaker—I apologize to every honorable member—but not to that man, never. And I will ask for the consensus of opinion of the house, if they do not think I am justified."

"Am I to have justice, Mr. Speaker?" insisted Mr. Neill. "I have withdrawn my statement; the honorable member for South Victoria should do the same."

"No, sir," said Mr. Eberts; "not to you."

"The honorable member for South Victoria has apologized to the house," said Mr. Speaker.

"He has not yet withdrawn," said Mr. Neill. "I must ask you, Mr. Speaker, to insist on your order being obeyed."

"I will never withdraw what I have said to that man," replied Mr. Eberts. "It's the truth."

"I insist that the Speaker's order be obeyed," said Mr. Neill. "I withdrew my offensive statement, though with great reluctance."

"I beg to move," said Mr. Prentice, "that in the opinion of this house the apology to this house of the honorable member for South Victoria is quite sufficient."

Mr. Neill (with increasing heat)—"I insist, Mr. Speaker," that you should enforce your order."

Then, after a considerable pause,

"Are you going to enforce your authority or not?"

Mr. Speaker—"The house can take it out of my hands."

Mr. Joseph Martin—"I beg to suggest this is not the proper course to take in this matter. There is no question at all as to what his powers are in matters of this kind. You, sir, are perfectly familiar with that rule. It seems to me that the honorable gentleman is perfectly right in insisting on his rights in this house. The rule is clear and well known, and surely each member here is entitled to have the rule applied."

After several of his colleagues had spoken to him, Mr. Eberts rose and said: "After thinking the matter over, Mr. Speaker, and in deference to your request as Speaker of this house, I beg leave to withdraw my words." Then he added, with a significant glance toward the seat of the member for Alberni, "Now I'll just step outside," and suiting the action to the words,

The house then proceeded to business.

CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

Hon. Mr. Semlin presented the petition of the Mission Board of Vancouver, with reference to cases of cruelty to children, and asking for protective legislation.

PETITIONS RECEIVED.

The following petitions were read, received and ordered to be printed:

From the Trout Lake Trades Committee, opposing bill to incorporate the North Kootenay Power & Light Company.

From R. B. Kerr, Charles Cummings, Joseph Stirrett and others, re incorporation of the city of Phoenix.

From Clarke & Stuart and others, of Vancouver, re printing of Supreme court appeal books.

From the Sandon Miners' Union, re eight-hour law.

KITIMAAT RAILWAY BILL.

Mr. Green, for the private bills committee, presented the eighteenth report of that body, presenting the bill of the Kitimaat Railway & Navigation Co.

INSANE ASYLUM INQUIRY.

Mr. Higgins presented the report of the select committee appointed to visit the provincial asylum at New Westminster. It appears in full in another column.

Mr. Kellie had understood there was something wrong at the asylum, into which inquiry was to be made. Did the committee intend to make a subsequent report?

Mr. Higgins—We may. You will notice we haven't yet asked to be discharged.

FIRST READINGS.

First readings were given the bills to provide for an official scaling of timber (Hon. Mr. Cotton); and to facilitate the incorporation of the town of Phoenix (Mr. J. M. Martin). The second readings were set for the next sitting of the house.

WESTERN TELEPHONE BILL.

Mr. J. M. Martin moved: "That the report of the committee on private bills and standing orders, in so far as it relates to the petition of the Western Telephone & Telegraph Company, be not received, but that the standing order of this house be suspended to allow the bill to be introduced on payment of double fees."

Mr. Higgins—Is that resolution in order?

Mr. Speaker—It is.

Mr. Higgins—I've no objection.

The resolution was carried.

REDISTRIBUTION.

"I now move that we proceed to the Orders of the Day," said Hon. Mr. Semlin, and the debate on the redistribution proposal was thereupon resumed.

MR. JOSEPH MARTIN thought that the government should certainly have taken more effectual measures for getting this redistribution bill through the house. As it was the bill, no matter how the government and house might wish to expedite its passage, would have to wait from day to day, according to the rules. In the House of Commons and in other parliamentary bodies, on such occasions, the practice was to call special sessions for evening, so that instead of the night session being a continuation and part of the day's assembly, it was to be regarded as a separate sitting, and thus two stages be dealt with in a single day. Brief and desultory discussion of this suggestion followed.

MR. HIGGINS then continued the debate. He attacked the bill with reluctance, he said, in the first place because of its importance, and in the second place because it bore on its face evidence that it had been brought down by the government in a state of panic, the result of the junior member for Vancouver's resolution. Prima facie evidence that the bill had not been maturely considered was found in the absence of any maps or definite information upon which the house might proceed intelligently in consideration of its provisions. If further evidence were needed to the same effect it was found in the fact that no reference whatever had been made to such a measure in the speech from the throne, while on the contrary there had been a provision there for a partial measure giving a member to the Boundary country. The fact was that this bill had been brought down hurriedly and without due consideration, under the whip of the member for Vancouver. It was not a fair bill or one that would do justice to the interests and industries of the country. That it was unfair and designed to secure the working out of political ambitions was evidenced in the fact that Esquimalt (which had fallen under the ban of the present government) was reduced from two members to one; while Alberni, with a much less population, retained its member. Other features of the bill were commented on, while the member for Esquimalt referred with indignation to the cancellation of the voters' lists of Victoria and New Westminster, which must have been done with sinister object, and which would not stand good if tested in the courts, as he had been advised by good lawyers. It was to be noted that the member for South Nanaimo had got a gerrymander line to benefit him in his district. Extraordinary powers were conferred in the bill, which the house should not under any circumstances approve; and no member of the government had yet been bold enough to endorse the statement from Mr. Kellie,

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

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