

## Provincial Parliament

The House Sits All Night—The Grand Forks Railway Company.

Prorogation This Afternoon—Premier Says the Eight Hour Law Stands.

Friday, August 31.

The legislature of British Columbia marked its final sessions yesterday and last night by a surprising attack of industry that involved a very tedious night for those whose business connects them with the House. Meeting at ten in the forenoon, they continued in session till one. Business was resumed at 2:15, and continued until six, when two hours were taken for dinner. Thence from 8:30 last night until 6:30 this morning—ten hours—the House continued steadily in session.

The feature of the night session was the victory of the Grand Forks and Kettle River Railway Company over the C. P. R. The latter's executive agent, Geo. McL. Brown, and Barrister Cowan, and others of Vancouver, who represent the new road, were busy lobbying up to the last moment. The bill finally carried after a "booby fecht". All the members, almost, stuck to their posts, though at one time fifteen nodding heads—chiefly gray ones—were counted in the chairs. Some of the sportive younger members amused themselves decorating their desks and sleeping colleagues with dunces caps, etc., to the enjoyment of those who remained awake. However, shortly after six the business was concluded and the members trooped out, shouting like schoolboys at their release.

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

On resuming after luncheon, Mr. Oliver introduced a bill to amend the Municipal Clauses Act. This bill being merely for the purpose of remedying a clerical error, was passed through all its readings and finally passed.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the Immigration Restriction bill, with Mr. Taylor in the chair. Mr. Brown, referring to section 2, said that as Chinese under the Dominion laws could come in on payment of \$100, if the bill excluded them it would be repugnant to the Dominion measure, and might nullify the bill. He therefore proposed a section setting forth that the bill would be inoperative in the case of immigrants authorized by the Dominion parliament.

With this Mr. Tatlow agreed, although Mr. McPhillips almost expired in a constitutional spasm and averred that the suggestion was sufficient to drive great numbers of Chinese into the hands of the department of the factory machine and bronze medals in all, be-  
lieving these awards, 2,000 francs, the for binders was McCormick Binder, culomuners on July years. This is the important trial held Exposition year. Limited, of Vic- for McCormick ma-

The bill was reported complete as amended, read a third time, and finally passed.

Mr. Helmecken moved the second reading of a bill to permit the use of voting machines in the British Columbia. The bill had been found impossible to get the bill through last session, and he therefore pressed for its acceptance now. It had been adopted in Ontario and he wanted British Columbia to be in line with the march of municipal improvement.

Mr. Martin said this was quite a different bill to that of last year, which proposed to give a monopoly to the Imperial machines.

The House went into committee on the bill. An amendment was made vesting the power of authorizing the use of machines by the House, instead of the Governor-in-Council. The bill was reported, read a third time, and passed.

The fourth report of the printing committee was reported by Mr. Hall, ordering the printing of a return on the Burdall Small Holdings, and also a return showing the complaints against government officials in Atlin, and the reply of the government thereto.

On moving the second reading of the Labor bill, Mr. McInnes said he had eliminated the clauses encroaching on the prerogative of the crown. He charged the government with shirking their responsibility in regard to this legislation. Two measures had been adopted, but they were meaningless. Mr. Helmecken's measure could be evaded under a Dominion charter, while the Attorney-General, and such an eminent legal authority as Mr. McPhillips, had pronounced Capt. Tatlow's motion valueless.

His own bill provided that no person who could not read this act in some European language should be employed in the forty-four occupations specified in the bill. The Dominion had certain powers; the province also had certain powers. By his bill, the Japanese and Chinaman could be expelled from the province.

These classes were inundating the country and monopolizing industries which had formerly been carried on by whites. His bill dealt with them in a general spirit. Last year it was sought to exclude these people from coal mines. But by excluding them from one industry they were simply driven to another, and unfair discrimination between industries was instituted. The only proper way was to exclude them from all industries, and ultimately from the province.

Some had objected to the drastic nature of his bill, but the question had reached a stage where even revolutionary measures were required. Yet to meet this view he had extended the date of the operation of the act until the beginning of the year.

The adoption of the bill would mean the total exclusion of this class of labor from the province, and its substitution by whites. The latter was to-day kept out by knowing that by coming into the country they would be forced to come

into degrading contact with Chinese and Japanese labor.

Hon. Mr. Turner regarded the act as revolutionary, and of order, as it excluded these people from every trade and calling.

Mr. Martin—There is nothing in our rules ruling a measure out of order because it is revolutionary.

Hon. Mr. Turner said this was a bill for the prevention of white labor in the provinces—for the prevention of investing of capital by keeping labor matters in constant turmoil. Such legislation would keep out capital and thus prevent the employment of white labor.

What was required was legislation to induce capital and to keep the inferior laborers, as the newers of wood and drawers of water.

He also quarreled with the word "Caucasian." In the dictionary he found that the term had a very wide significance, including natives of the Caucasians and others who would be far worse than Mongolians. He supposed the hon. gentleman didn't know this.

Mr. McInnes—Oh, yes. The only difference is that I have read it all through and the Finance Minister has not, or he would know better.

Hon. Mr. Turner—I am bound by the rules of the House to accept the statement, though in the ordinary course I would never have supposed it.

Mr. Oliver said he favored the principle of the bill, and would support its second reading, but he considered it too drastic in its present form.

Hon. Mr. Prentice tried to move the six months' hold, but Mr. Brown drew attention to the fact that the motion was improperly drawn. A hurried attempt of Messrs. Prentice and Turner to correct the error under a cascade of jokes from the opposition so agitated these gentlemen that it was some time before the revised and corrected amendment was available.

Mr. Curtis said the Finance Minister had charged the member for North Nanaimo with constantly stirring up the Mongolian question. To his mind, this was an indication of merit, and he wished similar merit could be found in gentlemen opposite. The question would always be a burning one until satisfactorily settled.

The Finance Minister, too, had said the passage of the bill would prevent the employment of white labor. Who was the best judge of this matter, if not white laborers themselves, and they loudly demanded such a measure?

The term "Caucasian" was as easily interpreted as the term "Indian." He quoted from the very article read by the Finance Minister to prove that it referred to the fair type of man as opposed to the Mongolian or yellow type. Why did Mr. Turner not suggest a better word if he was anxious to exclude these people? His objection was a mere quibble, or, to use his own words, "a bogus argument."

Mr. Hunter corrected the statement of Mr. Curtis that Mr. Turner had charged the member for North Nanaimo with stirring up the Mongolian question. What he did say was that he was stirring up strife between capital and labor, which was quite true. The bill would enable an officer to come into his kitchen, take his Chinaman by the neck and throw him out. Had not the member for Westminister on one occasion said, when speaking to the Health act, that anyone who invaded his home to violate his rights as a citizen would have the privilege of looking down the barrel of a weapon, which had never since been associated with his name? (Laughter.)

Mr. Brown replied that the last speaker had complained of putting words into the mouths of honorable gentlemen, yet this was exactly what had been done in his case. He had never used the words "stirring up the Mongolian question," as attached to his name. He favored the principle, but not the revolutionary details of the bill. Its operation as it stood at present would strike a serious blow at towns which were almost entirely dependent on the coal and cannery business. No one wanted to deal a violent blow at these industries, but he wanted to see some such bill carried, in order that the evil arising out of this question might be mitigated.

The amendment (six months' hold) was carried on the following division:

Yeas—Messrs. McInnes, Gilmour, Stables, B. C. Smith, Oliver, Brown, Martin, Curtis, R. Smith, Houston, 10. Nays—Kidd, Munro, Green, Hall, McPhillips, Helmecken, Turner, Dunsinuir, Eberts, A. W. Smith, Ellison, Clifford, Fulton, Hayward, Garden, Prentice, Wells, McBride, Pooley, Murphy, Rogers, Taylor, Dickie, Houston—24.

The Vancouver City Hospital Incorporation bill coming up for second reading, Mr. Martin opposed it, alleging that it took the control out of the hands of the city, which contributed the money to support the institution, and vested it in a board composed partly of nominees of the House, and partly of men who contributed \$10 a year. What, for instance, had the Lieutenant-Governor to do with it? What had the general superintendent of the C. P. R. to do with it? He protested against such an arrangement.

The debate was adjourned.

The Mortgagees Costs bill was read a second time. Mr. Martin regretting that an amendment had not been introduced limiting the charges which lawyers could insist upon, and by which the public were robbed. Subsequently in committee he moved that these costs be struck out. The leader of the opposition quoted instances showing the advantage that was taken of this rule, and said he was ashamed to have his attention drawn to the outrageous charges which brought the profession into disrepute. He advocated wiping out the tariff altogether.

The Attorney-General would be sorry to believe the judges had framed a tariff to rob and plunder people.

The amendment was lost and the bill reported complete without amendment.

The Water Clauses Amendment Act, proposed by Mr. Houston, that gentleman explained, empowered municipalities to acquire water records the same as companies.

Mr. Ellison opposed it as interfering with the spirit of the Water Clauses Act. He opposed diverting this from the land for power purposes. Let the municipalities use steam. For irrigation purposes the water had to be taken from a very high point, and if it was monopolized for power purposes the land would often have to be idle. It was absolutely necessary to have power in this way let the municipality come to the House for a special act.

Mr. A. W. Smith opposed the bill for the same reasons.

Mr. Green insisted that a corporation was a collection of individuals and should enjoy quite as much of a privilege as a company or individual.

Mr. Ellison took the point of order that a private member couldn't father a change in this bill. It lay with the government.

Mr. Houston thought it had been approved by the Attorney-General, and therefore a private member need not object.

Mr. Martin said if the opponents of the bill didn't want water used for power purposes they should have the General Act which permitted water to be used for power purposes repealed.

The bill was read a second time. Messrs. Turner, A. W. Smith, Ellison and Pooley alone voting against it. The bill was then taken up in committee, reported and read a third time.

Mr. Stables' amendment to the Placer Act Amendment Bill was ruled out of order.

Hon. Mr. McBride said that while this was the case the government intended to incorporate the reforms therein mentioned in the act.

Mr. Stables regretted the government had taken no action.

Mr. McPhillips' amendment to the Queen's Counsel Act was reached when the debate was adjourned on motion of Mr. Martin.

### EVENING SESSION.

The Speaker having taken the chair Mr. Ralph Smith moved as follows:

"That the present select committee appointed to look into certain grievances within the E. & N. railway belt be appointed a royal commission to look into all matters involved in this question, with power to examine witnesses on oath, and report at the next sitting of the House."

Mr. A. W. Smith challenged the right of the committee to make a recommendation, or the right of the House to appoint such a commission.

Mr. Pooley held that the only power that the House had to appoint a commission beyond the session was under the Public Inquiries Act, and this entailed a charge on the revenue, and as such could not be advanced by a private member.

Mr. Ralph Smith quoted the appointment of a special committee in 1897 to revise the rules of the House as a precedent for the committee's recommendation, while others reminded the Speaker that the case referred to was not a royal commission. Mr. Martin thought while a royal commission could not be appointed a special committee could be.

Hon. Mr. McBride announced that the government had decided to issue a royal commission to enquire into the matter, quite apart from that made by the Dominion government.

Mr. McInnes congratulated the government on this step, and Mr. Smith withdrew his motion.

Mr. Hunter asked leave to introduce a bill to amend the Lands Act.

Mr. McInnes objected that three weeks previously he had introduced a measure and been upbraided by the member for Cariboo for doing so at such a late stage. Surely if the remark was true then it was true now.

The bill was introduced and read a first and second time.

On the adjourned debate on the Queen's Counsel Bill, Mr. Martin said the measure was copied from the Ontario law, notwithstanding that the circumstances were quite different. It increased the number of Q. C.'s who could be appointed in one year from two to ten. Then it gave the Attorney-General of the House had supported Mr. McPhillips' contention. The law was now on the statute, and its alteration would cause not only great inconvenience but great irritation as well. He cautioned that this ill-feeling should not be revived.

Mr. Curtis said the 25 or 30 lawyers in his constituency opposed the change. They were able to save two days by having the court in Vancouver. He drew attention to the fact that the Attorney-General's bill provided for an equal number of sittings in Vancouver and Victoria, and reasons had been given for the proposal now before the House. He read from a letter he had received from the Greenwood Bar Association protesting against the change. He believed the same was true of the Nelson bar. The feelings of the interior that their interests were not considered when it was to the selfish interest of Victoria to neglect them seem to be well founded. He contended that the Island had double the vote in the cabinet that the election returns warranted.

Mr. Munro deprecated the change. Public opinion often turned on little matters like this. It had been urged that there was no urgent necessity for a Vancouver court. The same argument obtained in regard to the Queen's Counsel Bill, which Mr. McPhillips had insisted on introducing, and which was not urgently necessary.

Mr. Houston, mover of the amendment, presented the statement that he had been in the interior in conducting it. He was under the impression that British Columbia was a single-barreled province. One of the best ways to knock out this sectional feeling was to have the capital either at Vancouver or Victoria. They had heard a great deal about the 61 cases tried at Vancouver, but majority of these were from Kootenay, and if there was to be a second court it should have been in Kootenay. If they had to come to the Coast there was no choice between Victoria and Vancouver.

Mr. Oliver warned the government that this would be an ill-vised step.

Hon. Mr. Eberts raised the leader of the opposition for raising the sectional feeling. With his mouth he deprecated the raising of this sectionalism, while in his heart he sought to revive it. The decentralization of an Appellate Court was a most injurious one, and he defied the leader of the opposition to deny it. When he passed the bill multiplying Appellate Courts he put a knife into the administration of justice. When Judges went to Rossland and Nelson to hold court they usually only got started when they had to post back to Appellate Court.

Advances would be made to the Dominion government asking for additional judges. But if they did so they would be subsidized by the big additional bills the Dominion had to pay for this additional service at Vancouver. However, deferring to the views of the government supporters in Vancouver, he moved that the debate be adjourned.

Capt. Tatlow warmly thanked the At-

torney-General for giving the House a further opportunity to look into the question.

Mr. Martin thought the government was acting very wisely in giving way to the House. He pressed the putting through the remainder of the bill, many of the provisions of which were very necessary. He also had some amendments he wished to include.

The debate, however, was adjourned.

Mr. Curtis, on a question of privilege, complained that the eight-hour law motion had been passed over in his absence, although a distinct understanding had existed that the matter was not to be passed over before the House prorogued.

The government assured the opposition that it would be given a place on the orders and the matter dropped.

The adjourned committee on the Small Debt Court bill was discharged.

The Chief Commissioner recommended the second reading of the Columbia & Western Railway Subsidy Act Amendment bill.

Mr. Martin opposed the bill. The company had forfeited their land grant. Why restore it, especially as Mr. Shaugnessy had succeeded in cutting out his competitor at Ottawa by stating that he did not want a bonus, knowing they had this up their sleeve? The road had never earned the subsidy. They had received the subsidy under their incorporation in British Columbia, while they had afterwards secured incorporation in the Dominion, thus avoiding being subject to the conditions of the Provincial Railway Act. It was proposed to give away two millions of acres of land, which had no claim, either equitable or legal. The company would be non-suited in such a claim.

Mr. McPhillips said that in 1890 Mr. Martin had extended the time of the railway, though it had come under the general railway act the year previous. This was a specimen of the non-gentleman's consistency.

Mr. Curtis characterized the bill as a proposal to do something for nothing. The company had allowed their right to lapse and there was no hardship in insisting that a bargain be carried out. This was the policy of the C. P. R., and this session it had been found necessary to pass a special act to prevent the company from taking advantage of a legal quibble. They certainly could not complain if the province insisted on the same adherence to its bargain. Still, he had no doubt that there were gentlemen opposite who would tumble over one another to give away the resources of the province.

Mr. Hunter felt the C. P. R. was entitled to the two million acres of land. It was all rot to talk about giving away the people's heritage. This land consisted of rocks and precipices that he would not pay taxes on.

Mr. Houston thought the C. P. R. ought to get the land they had earned from Rossland to Midway, but not between Midway and Penitence, which they had shown no disposition to earn. To grant this would be to tie up the land so that a bargain could not be made with another corporation. The time for the completion of the road to Penitence expired in April, and it was certain the eighty miles of road could not be completed before that time. It was of the greatest importance to his district that the line be built, and he would have been built had it not been for Mr. Martin's policy of repudiation. The railway would want to take up the most desirable lands, but he would compel them to take it along the line of railway. The government should leave itself free to subsidize any line that would build that road.

The bill passed its second reading. Messrs. Martin, Curtis, McInnes, Gilmour, Stables, Smith and Oliver voting nay.

The House went into committee on the bill, with Mr. Hall in the chair. The bill was reported complete.

Mr. Martin moved that nothing in the extension of time should be held to affect in any way any question which may arise with respect to said land subsidy. The amendment was defeated.

The bill was finally passed.

The House then went into committee on a bill to grant certain lands to the city of Vancouver. On this bill Mr. Martin drew attention to the fact that the government was asserting its title to the foreshore of Coal Harbor. It followed then that the foreshore of Burrard Inlet was vested in the provincial government, and that the land had been grabbed by the C. P. R. If it was vested in the Dominion government, the latter only held it in trust, and not to be given to any party or corporation. He hoped the Attorney-General would assert the province's claim.

The Attorney-General denied that the question of the ownership of this land was before the House at all.

The bill was reported complete with amendment, read a third time, and finally passed.

The Vancouver Northern and Yukon Railway bill was also passed.

The Kitimat-Caledonia Company's bill was taken up in committee, and reported complete as amended, the report adopted, and the bill read a third time and finally passed. The same course was followed in the case of the Kamloops-Atlin Railway.

The House then reached, at 4:35 a. m., the second reading of the Grand Forks and Kettle River Railway bill. Mayor Garden moved the second reading, and expressed the hope that the bill should meet with little opposition.

Mr. Curtis said there were principles underlying the bill so important that he wished to draw the attention of the House to it. It was not backed by speculators or chicanes, but by capitalists, including Hon. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Coffee. Out of eighty charters granted by the legislature eleven roads had been built, and nine had received a subsidy. The present road asked no subsidy. It was opposed by the V. & E. and the C. P. R.

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The opposition of the former he could not understand, for the line would act as a feeder to them if constructed, and he thought they were being used by the C. P. R. The Grand Forks and Kettle River railway had gone far to placate the C. P. R. by dropping the Cascade portion of the route in favor of the C. P. R. Even if Canadian ores went to Republic, which he very much doubted, it would still benefit Grand Forks, the speaker illustrating his remarks by a reference to the development of Rossland, even with the shipment of its ores to Northport.

He asked had the C. P. R. more influence than the people?

The division being taken, the bill passed its second reading by the following vote:

Yeas—Eberts, McBride, Brown, Martin, Curtis, Green, R. Smith, Houston, McInnes, Gilmour, Stables, E. C. Smith, Oliver, Kidd, Garden, Taylor, Clifford—17.

Nays—Turner, Dunsinuir, A. W. Smith, Prentice, Wells, Pooley, Hayward, Tatlow, Ellison, Monce, Rogers, Murphy, Hunter, McPhillips, Helmecken—16.

As soon as the result was announced the opposition benches broke into loud applause.

In committee, Mr. McPhillips moved that the bill be not allowed to go into operation until proclaimed by the Governor-in-Council, and in any event not until one year from the passage of the bill. No notice having been given, the motion was ruled out. Mr. McPhillips then moved that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again. The division bells rang, the members trooping in, and the first vote was declared by the chairman (Mr. Green) to be out Mr. McPhillips' motion. A recount was demanded, and the amendment defeated by a majority of 16 to 16.

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