

uesday, March 16, 1909

PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE

Session Came to An End at 9.20 Last Evening

WATER BILL WAS PASSED

Contentious Provincial Elections Act Put Through at Yesterday's Sitting

(From Saturday's Daily)

The legislature was prorogued at 9.20 last night by the lieutenant-governor after a session of slightly over seven weeks duration.

The Water Act, designed to insure the economical use of water under equitable regulations, was passed after a long and contentious session.

The consolidation and revision of the laws, which you have authorized, will greatly simplify their interpretation, and prove a convenience to all concerned.

The Act providing for co-operative fruit-cooling depots, which much needed want of the fruit-growers, and should have the effect of further stimulating this growing industry.

"It is very gratifying to observe the substantial provision which you have made for the execution of surveys and public works."

"I thank you for the liberal support voted for the public service, and I feel assured that the amount will be disbursed economically, and with a view to securing the best possible results."

"Wishing you health and success in your personal undertakings, I now take leave of you, and relieve you from your sessional duties."

The house concluded its business about nine o'clock, and the speaker declared a recess of half an hour until the lieutenant-governor arrived.

At about 9.20 his honor was ushered in, accompanied by his two secretaries, and the clerk of the house read out the bills passed during the session.

The provincial secretary announced to the house that by the wish of the lieutenant-governor the session was prorogued, and the third session of the eleventh legislature of British Columbia closed with the singing of "God Save the King" by the members.

The Bills Assented to During the session just closed 68 bills were assented to, as follows:

No. 2—An act to declare the rights of the Crown in respect to water, and to amend and consolidate the laws of the province relating to the diversion, acquisition and use of water.

No. 4—An act to regulate the use of liquor on club premises.

No. 5—An act to amend the Ditches and Water-courses act, 1907.

No. 7—An act to amend the Municipal Elections act.

No. 8—An act to amend the Municipal Clauses act.

No. 9—An act to amend the Provincial Elections act.

No. 10—An act to amend the Coal Mines Regulation act.

No. 15—An act to amend the Law of Vendor and Purchaser, and to Simplify Titles.

No. 18—An act to amend the Court of Appeals act, 1907.

No. 21—An act respecting the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

No. 60—An act to incorporate the Coast River Water Power and Light Company, Limited.

No. 62—An act to Authorize the Pacific Coast Coal Mines, Limited, to Personal Liability, to Construct Railways, and conferring other Powers.

No. 63—An act to incorporate the Graham Island Railway Company.

No. 65—An act to amend the Corporation of Victoria Water Works act, 1873, and the Victoria Water Works Amendment act, Chapter 64 of the Statutes of 1892, and to give additional powers.

No. 66—An act respecting the Pacific Northern and Omineca Railway Company.

No. 67—An act to incorporate the Portland Canal Short Line Railway Company.

No. 68—An act to incorporate the Vancouver and Northern Railway Company.

No. 70—An act to incorporate the Hardy Bay and Quatsino Sound Railway Company.

No. 71—An act to Create the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vancouver and his Successors in Office a Corporation Sole.

No. 72—An act for the Relief of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Fernie.

No. 74—An act to amend an Act relating to the City of Victoria, being Chapter 46 of the Statutes of 1907.

No. 75—An act to Provide for the Establishment of Depots and Facilities for the Preparation for Market and Shipment of Provincial-grown Fruit.

No. 77—An act to amend the Police and Prisons Regulation Act.

No. 78—An act to amend the Explosives Storage Act.

No. 79—An act for the Relief of the Armstrong Power and Light Company, Limited.

No. 81—An act to amend the Game Protection act, 1898.

No. 82—An act further to amend the Land Registry Act.

No. 84—An act to amend the Land Act.

No. 85—The Fernie Park Sub-division Act.

The Business of Yesterday The provincial elections act, which came into the committee of the whole house like a lion, went out like a lamb yesterday, whithered the compromise arrived at between the Conservative and Liberal forces was adopted.

The water bill, too, occupied but little time in the house yesterday. It was advanced from report stage, and passed without a division.

The amendments to the land act passed committee, report and third reading without debate.

The bill to amend the game protection act was the subject of some discussion. Mr. Hawthornthwaite (Nanaimo) wanted a clause inserted prohibiting others than electors, former electors, or the families of electors taking game without a special license.

Mr. Oliver (Delta) thought that the bill was not a good one, and that it would be better to have a general license, and the fee for such license should be \$25.

Mr. Oliver thought that the shooting of feathered game with rifles should be prohibited, and that the penalty should be from \$250 to \$500.

The chief commissioner of lands said that he would consider an amendment of this nature for next session.

"It shall be the duty of such registrar at the holding of the court of revision to strike off the names of voters, and of the said list of persons claiming to vote, all names thereon of persons against whom objection has been taken, as above provided, unless the voter objected to, or some other voter on his behalf, or the registrar that the objections are not well founded; before striking off the name of any person for any of the above-mentioned reasons, the registrar shall, unless in the case of death such death shall be registered under the 'Births, Deaths and Marriages' Registration act, give at least twenty-one clear days' notice of his intention to strike off such name by posting a letter to that effect addressed to such elector at his last known residence."

The registrar, after said court, shall forthwith make up the register of voters, which shall consist of the names on the last register of voters (if any) not struck off, and the names on such list of persons claiming to vote not struck off. The registrar shall certify to said register of voters, with any additions made thereto, under the provisions of section 4 of this act, and it shall be the list to be used at any election which may take place before the next revision has been completed.

The registrar, at such court of revision shall have the right to take an oath to any person and to require that evidence shall be given on oath.

On motion of Mr. Oliver (Delta) an amendment was adopted to the effect that the voter appearing for the person objected to before the court of revision should be a provincial voter.

Mr. Macdonald (Rossland) added a proviso concerning the administering of the oath to witnesses at the court of revision, on request of the person objected to or the elector.

The bill was reported complete with amendments.

The house went into committee on the bill to amend the Game Protection Act.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite (Nanaimo) asked that a proviso be put in the act forbidding Orientals to take game. This was not acted upon.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite suggested that only electors or members of elector's families be allowed to go hunting.

Mr. Yorston (Cariboo) objected that many Americans were taking up land in the provinces, and these men could not go on the voters' list for three years.

The chief commissioner of lands said that he would consider an amendment of this nature for next session.

Mr. Oliver (Delta) thought that the penalties for taking game unlawfully were too small. He said the game wardens only carried a few law-breakers out of every dozen, and the penalties should be made something worth while. He suggested that in the case of mountain sheep the fine should be from \$250 to \$500.

The chief commissioner pointed out the bill was already treating the penalties.

Mr. Oliver moved an amendment that in the penalty clause the words \$50 and \$150 should be struck out wherever they occurred, and \$250 and \$500 respectively substituted.

Mr. Oliver thought that the shooting of feathered game with rifles should be prohibited, and that the penalty should be from \$250 to \$500.

The Speaker arose as to the use of the automatic shot-gun. Dr. Hall (Nelson) defended the weapon.

The chief commissioner said that the gun was extremely destructive. In one case brought to his attention a sportsman had killed twelve birds with one of these guns, and the first was on the ground before he had finished shooting.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite (Nanaimo) again moved his amendment of wages or salary to be earned in the future, but a person who is not has not been a registered voter of the province of British Columbia, or a member of the family of a registered voter, shall take game in the province without first obtaining a general license, or the permission in writing of the game warden, and the fee for such license shall be \$25.

The chief commissioner said he would like this to stand over, and Mr. Hawthornthwaite agreed to hold it over to the report stage.

The bill to amend the Land Act, the chief provision of which is the issuing of licenses to the holders of the land, through committee stage without amendment or question.

There being no reading stage, Mr. Oliver (Delta) asked leave to introduce an amendment providing for the prohibition of rifles in hunting grounds.

He said that a great deal of harm had been done by people hunting with rifles in cultivated lands, and himself having had cattle killed in this way. He would except from the law timber cruisers, prospectors and members of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The Minister of Finance said that he was glad to see such a measure proposed as many complaints had been received.

Mr. Oliver withdrew his amendment and the bill was given third reading and passed.

The second reading of the bill to amend the Dentistry Act (Hon. Attorney-General) and of the bill to amend the Steam Boilers, Inspection Act, 1907 (Hon. Minister of Public Works) were passed by the two parties, as follows:

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Yea—Messrs. Oliver, Henderson, Munro, Jardine, Brewster, Williams, McInnis, Yorston, Jones, Hall, Naden, King.

Nays—Messrs. Macdonald, Eagleson, Tatlow, McErdie, Bowser, Ellison, Ross, Shatford, McPhillips, Thomson, Hunter, Manson, Bohmen, Grant, Macgowan, Taylor, Fulton, Young, Hayward, Mackay, Parson, Davey, Schofield.

At the night session the Provincial Elections Act was given third reading and passed.

The motion on the bill to amend the Game Protection Act, Mr. Hawthornthwaite (Nanaimo), moved his amendment, and the bill was given third reading and passed.

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Superb Costumes and Gowns

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