PRICE OF COAL LED TO DEBATE

Member for Delta Attacked the Premier on Coal Policy of Government

THE REFORMATORY BILL

Attorney-General Explained the Work of Industrial School at Vancouver

(From Wednesday's Daily)

A serious set-to between the Premier and the wasp of the Opposition, John Oliver (Delta) marked the proceedings of the legislature yesterday. It was a controversy of sorts, and it all arose from the fact that the fifth member for Vancouver brought in a very drastic amendment to an innocent and ordinary private bill respecting a coal company.

The bill was one introduced by Mr. Thomson (Victoria) to authorize the Pacific Coast Coal Mines, Limited, Non-Personal Liability, to construct railways. As explained by Mr. Thomson, this bill was for the purpose of enabling the company to build a short railway line to connect the mines with the salt water for purposes of shipment.

Upon this bill Mr. McGuire (Vancouver) endeavored to fix an amendment that the following words be inserted: "Provided that the said company shall at all times hereafter sell to the public, free on board the cars at the mines, coal at the minimum price charged therefor to its agents, or to parties living outside the province of British Columbia."

The Premier Attacked.

This precipitated trouble. Opposition and Socialist with one accord fell upon the junior member for Vancouver, charging him with heresy. The Premier came to the rescue of his fellow member, and thereupon the combined forces attacked the Premier, and for almost an hour Mr. McBride was subjected to a severe heckling, in which personalities of various kinds passed from side to side. Finally Mr. McGuire withdrew his amendment, and the bill was reported from committee.

The Attorney-General's bill to amend the Reformatory Act came up for second reading, but on motion of Mr. Henderson (Yale) the debate was adjourned.

Mr. Bowser made an eloquent statement of the policy of the government with regard to the reformatory at Vancouver, and, in pressing for second reading of a bill to change the style of that institution to "industrial school," stated that it had been the government's policy to make it a school rather than a reformatory.

The bill to amend the Supreme Court Act was passed. This bill provides that trials may take place within two weeks after the opening sitting of the full court without an order, and also that the continued presence of the examiner during a hearing is not required.

The Reformatory Act.

In moving second reading of his Reformatory bill, Mr. Bowser said he would take advantage of the opportunity to describe the work of the reformatory situate in Vancouver, which was opened February 1, 1905. During the four years in which this institution had been in existence, he said, one hundred boys ranging in age from eight to sixteen years had been sent thither for various offences. These offences were as follows:

Sixty-two for theft; six for housebreaking; two for housebreaking and wilful destruction of property; one for receiving stolen money; two for vagrancy; one for forgery; one for obtaining money under false pretences; twenty-four for incorrigibility. Of these 17 were committed in 1905, 20 in 1906, 32 in 1907, and 31 in 1908.

There are at present 59 boys in the institution for the following offences: 38 for theft, 4 for housebreaking; 2 for housebreaking and destruction of property; 2 for vagrancy; 1 for obtaining money under false pretences; 12 for incorrigibility.

The causes which led the boys to the reformatory were generally attributable to the lack of proper home training and influences, religious training, and education and discipline. Out of the one hundred boys who had gone there, 24 could not read, 47 were in the first and second reader, 21 in the third reader, and 8 in the fourth reader. The aim of the department had been to do for the boy what his parents had neglected to do. It was a school and not a prison. The superintendent and officials tried by precept and example to lead the boys to take a different view of life, and as they grew and developed to become honest and honorable men.

The Work of the School.

To that end industrial work, school studies, physical and manual training, and moral and religious training formed the curriculum. The boys attend school every day but Saturday, and all the public school studies are taken up, some of the boys going as high as algebra. There was a bakery in connection with the school, and all the boys were given instruction in this trade. There was also a tailor shop, where the boys were taught to do all their own mending, and to learn the tailoring trade. Manual training was compulsory, the instructor dividing the boys into classes according to their age and size, each boy having two days of manual training a week. The older boys had training in carpentry, making most of the useful articles in that line required in the school. Physical training, military drill as well as gymnastics, was also compulsory. In addition to this the boys were encouraged to take part in all sports, such as football, baseball, lacrosse and cricket.

The time each day was divided between school and play. In addition to the bakeshop and the tailor shop, the boys worked on the farm, on which 53 acres had already been cleared, and many of the boys had their own private gardens. There was also moral and religious training, which many of the boys required very much when they first came to the reformatory. Special religious services were arranged for Sunday afternoon and evening. In summer the boys were marched to church at Fairview, where they attended the churches of the various denominations alternately.

Boys Wish to Stay.

The health of the boys was excellent. In the four years there had been no serious cases of illness, and only one or two minor operations. In that period the surgeon had received only $280. The surroundings were splendid, there was abundance of plain food and healthy exercise, and all visitors to the place were very well pleased with what they saw. At this point the attorney-general extended an invitation to the members of the House to go to the school and see for themselves the work being done there.

Owing to the kindly disposition of the superintendent the boys themselves were attached to the institution. When it came time to leave many boys went away against their will. The attorney-general cited a case where a boy was sentenced to the school illegally, and when he was sent away he was so anxious to return that he stole a horse and wagon and had himself again sentenced. He came back to the school quite happy. The escapes were confined to new boys, or to those who had escaped from other reformatories, and made it a matter of pride. When they became accustomed to the place the boys were eager to stay. Only one boy had escaped and had not been returned. Only two boys had escaped since last May and these had been returned.

A considerable amount of money had been spent on the institution, in all $123,140. Last year an addition was built at a cost of $56,000. This gave much more room and dormitory accommodation for fifty more boys. Speaking of the industries of the place, the attorney-general said that 150 fruit-trees had been set out, the school had three cows, two heifers and two horses, and next year it was expected that enough vegetables would be raised on the farm to supply the institution for the year.

Mark System Introduced.

"Some few months ago," said Mr. Bowser, "I wrote to the provincial secretary of Ontario to ask his opinion regarding the improvement of the institution. He said that Mr. Kelso, the superintendent of such institutions in Ontario, would be in Saskatchewan in January, and would come on to B. C. if we so wished. He will be here next week to go through the institution. It is my intention in the coming year to have the superintendent and his wife visit the various institutions of the kind in the United States and Canada. It is true that in the United States the States spend a great deal of money on industrial schools. We do not propose to do this but at the same time it seems wise for us to make a gradual change from a prison to an industrial school."

The mark system had been introduced, said Mr. Bowser, and in this way it could be determined at the end of the month what each boy was doing. The marks covered all phases of school life, and at the end of the month the marks were totalled up and the "honor roll" was posted up in the halls, as precept and example to the boys. On these records the applications for pardon were based. In the case of incorrigibles, pardon rested with the attorney-general. In the case of an offence under the code, the governor-general in council considered the application, on the recommendation of the attorney-general. Sixteen boys had been pardoned and fourteen allowed out on parole.

The attorney-general added that the present bill was simply for the purpose of changing the name of the institution from "reformatory" to "industrial school."

In conclusion he added a word of praise for the methods of the superintendent. This gentleman, he said, had given the school a magnificent management. His method was to get into touch with the parents and especially with the mother of the boys, and in that way study the individual temperaments of the boys. Also when necessary he visited their homes.

The Debate Adjourned.

Mr. Henderson (Yale) moved adjournment of the debate.

The premier on behalf of the minister of agriculture, asked that the second reading of the bill to amend the Farmers' Institutes Act be discharged. The bill, he said, was to be redrafted.

The bill to amend the Jurors' Act passed second reading. Mr. Bowser explained that amendment had been found necessary owing to errors in the existing act.

The house went into committee on the Pacific Coast Coal Mines Company bill, introduced by Mr. Thomson (Victoria) and asking that the company be authorized to construct a railway line to connect the mines with the salt water.

In committee Mr. McGuire (Vancouver) moved that the bill be amended by adding a provision that the company must, if given the privilege, sell to the public, free on the cars at the mines, coal at the minimum price charged therefor to its agents, or to parties living outside the province of British Columbia.

The Price of Coal.

In moving this amendment, Mr. McGuire said that everybody knew that people in this province are paying too much for coal. It is true that now everybody who wishes may buy coal, whereas a year ago only certain agents could buy it. The people in this province pay $7.50 per short ton, while last year 75,000 tons of B. C. coal was sold in Seattle at $7 a ton. This was an injustice to the people of British Columbia where the coal was mined. From time to time companies were before the house to ask for concessions, and it was nothing but right that the people of British Columbia should ask for some concessions from these companies in return. In the case of the Crow's Nest company, that company evaded the clause requiring it to sell coal at the mines for $2 a ton by selling the entire output to an agent.

Mr. Thomson regretted that the amendment had been brought in, as he was sure the fifth member for Vancouver did not understand the situation. He was defeating the very end he sought by bringing in such an amendment in the present case. The great coal corporations on Vancouver island had made enormous profits out of coal, but the company in question was a young company that was striving at great expense to get into operation. It had spent over $200,000 in developing its mines. The company could get the right it sought under acts already on the statutes, without the need of special legislation. The house was not asked to grant anything extraordinary. Most of the property held by the company had been acquired from private individuals, and had lain dormant for many years previously. The company merely asked the privilege of connecting its mines with the salt water, having already spent $100,000 on bunkers at the sea. When this connection was made, it would be in a better position to supply the public with cheaper coal.

Mr. McGuire retorted that he might be dense, but he could not see the force of the argument. There were several coal companies now operating, and each had gone in to relieve the situation, presumably. The only hope of the province was to make the law such that the companies could not evade it. As for competition, if one company was forced to sell coal at a minimum price, the others would have to come down.

Here Mr. Hawthornthwaite (Nanaimo) took a hand. He said that laws of the nature suggested were never an advantage. The member for Vancouver voted for the competition system until his own corns were trodden upon and then he wanted restrictive legislation. He had said that the house should ask for concessions from corporations.

"Apply this to the Dentistry Act," demanded the member for Nanaimo. "If I demand that owing to the favors they have received from this House the members of the Dentistry Association should charge five cents for pulling teeth, what would Dr. McGuire say? Yet, but for his Act the people of B. C. could have their teeth pulled by those who are not entitled to have the letters D.D.S. after their names."

Would Kill Competition

On Vancouver Island, he added, large corporations, the Wellington Collieries particularly, had absolute control of the coal situation. New companies were hampered in every shape and form by the courts of justice even. They were charged exorbitant rates by the railways and so they asked the right to build their own road. The amendment would simply put the small companies out of business and leave the province in the hands of the Wellington Collieries.

"This legislation is absurd," declared Mr. Hawthornthwaite. Hundreds of years ago in Great Britain the same methods of restricting trade were tried and failed. It was found that commerce must have free opportunity for development. If this were the case of a trust it would be different, if competition had said its last word. But there is still competition. There is no coal monopoly in this province."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite then cited Chamberlain's tariff reform policy, and pointed out that Great Britain was going to the wall commercially because American firms could dump their surplus products on the British markets unrestricted. British Columbia was dumping her surplus product on the States and was reaping the benefit.

The object of industry was to operate at full time, to keep as many men as possible at work. If this legislation were adopted it would deprive the industries of this power, and they could not compete. If the member for Vancouver would bring in a bill dealing with all the coal companies it would not be so bad, but in this case it would kill a small company and raise the price of coal.

Mr. Oliver Takes Floor

Mr. Oliver (Delta) said that the coal companies would have to take second place to Dr. McGuire in evading their responsibility. When he had proposed that a committee be appointed to look into the price of coal, he had himself voted against the appointment of such a committee. In view of Dr. McGuire's record on this matter, and in view of the platform by which his party had been placed in power, that a portion of every coal area staked should be reserved for the province, it ill became Dr. McGuire to attack a company that was just beginning operations in this province. The company had bought its holdings in the open market without any grant from the Government. Moreover, the amendment was out of order, as it was not in the province of the bill, but was of a different meaning altogether.

Mr. McGuire replied that he had not wished to single out any company. The evil must be remedied somehow. If the amendment was going to embarrass the company, and if the member for Nanaimo would assure him that he would support him, he would be glad to introduce a general bill dealing with all coal companies.

Mr. Williams (Newcastle): "Would the hon. gentleman include the dentistry bill in this? When it comes down to footpads the Dentistry Association is as bad as any of them."

Protecting Ottawa

The premier stated that he would endeavor to remove any doubt as to the part taken by Dr. McGuire in the price of coal matter. Last March the junior member for Vancouver had introduced a resolution on the matter that had been commended by his side of the House. Its aim was to have the department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa given the necessary instructions by the federal government to make an independent inquiry as to the price of coal in this province. The object was to secure reliable information at first hand, from an investigating board that would be free from local influences.

"The Opposition, and particularly the member for Delta, is always on the alert to protect the Ottawa government," said the premier. "They wanted to substitute a committee of this House to make the inquiry. I am not surprised at this action. The well known proclivities of the member for Delta for establishing records and manufacturing evidence are directed more towards exciting the electorate than in the best interests of the country. In the first place it is well known that the department at Ottawa is better equipped for this work than the provincial government. The resolution was forwarded to Ottawa, and a reply received.

That was all. If there is any anxiety it should be over the neglect of the department at Ottawa to look into this matter.

"Personally I have no desire to make any point of politics on this matter. I am sure that everybody would acquit me of any desire to put a point of politics before the good of the country."—

Mr. Henderson (Yale)—"No, no."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite (Nanaimo)—"If the hon. premier would agree to expropriate all the coal mines, the Socialists would support him."

The premier returned to the charge. He said that Mr. Oliver's position would have been stronger if he had been able to produce any information that would be of value to the House in the matter in hand. He hoped that after this debate Ottawa would do something. As far as the government could do anything towards carrying on a proper investigation it would spare no efforts.

Mr. Oliver again took up the parable. The premier had, he said, again succeeded in evading discussion of his broken pledges. He wanted the department at Ottawa to take action. What had that department to do with these coal lands? The lands of the Crow's Nest company were the only coal lands in the province acquired under the Dominion, and this company was the only one in the province producing cheap coal. It was the Dominion government that placed the $2 a ton clause in their contract. Every other company had acquired its holdings direct from the British Columbia government.

Mr. Oliver's Hat.

"Last year when the government referred this matter to the Trade and Commerce department, they knew they were putting on the department what did not belong to it, but to this province," said Mr. Oliver. "The premier said that this department would have power to go into the books of the companies. That was my very reason for moving that a committee of the House undertake the investigation. A select committee of this House has power to open all the books of business companies. The government voted down the only practical way of getting information.

"The premier says that I am the protector of the government at Ottawa. That government does not need my protection as the results of the last Dominion election show. That government never worried me a particle. I never thought that my mission in life was to protect them. He also says that I am an adept at making records. Who made this record? What power have I to make the premier and his colleagues go on record as voting against the pledges they gave the people? If I listened to the hon. gentleman I would need to have a larger hat made for myself. Whatever effect such words might have had a few years ago, they have none now.

"The premier has said that nothing further was heard from Ottawa regarding the resolution. I would like him to show me how Ottawa has any jurisdiction in the case. For years past he has been trying to make the Ottawa government the scapegoat to carry the load of his sins. Some day the goat will butt, and then there will be an end of my hon. friend. He says that if the commission should achieve anything he would be glad to support it. How can he be expected to be taken seriously? It is the old trick of trying to draw a red herring across the trail."

A Royal Commission.

Mr. McBride: "I am very sorry that my few words so disturbed the equilibrium of the member for Delta. He says we relegated the matter to a certain quarter, as if when we took the question to the department of trade and commerce we might expect no reply. He knows that the department has power to send out a commission."

Mr. Macdonald (Rossland): "In what way?"

Mr. McBride: "A royal commission."

Mr. Macdonald: "And implicate the Ottawa government in the matter?"

Mr. McBride: "If it revealed a certain state of affairs, this government would have to move."

Mr. Macdonald: "Does the hon. premier expect the department of trade and commerce to act as detectives for this government?"

Mr. McBride: "No, but I expect that department to go to extraordinary lengths to find out the facts. It is not rare to see Ottawa interfering in small matters when its interests are at stake, but this is a big thing. Hundreds of thousands have been spent in cases where the public good was not so much at stake."

Mr. Hawthornthwaite: "Will the hon. premier tell us whether he is speaking to the motion or to the amendment?"

The Premier: "I am speaking to both. If there has been any neglect at all it is on the part of the department of trade and commerce. When the member for Delta speaks of a committee of the house to investigate this matter, I point out to him that the committee would have to go into a lot of detail, and gather evidence in Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco. This could be better done by a commission than by a committee of this house."

Mr. Henderson (Yale): "Why not by the department of mines?"

The Premier: "No, the department of trade and commerce is the proper body. It is a department of some strength that can go outside B. C. in this inquiry. When the house last session decided to go to Ottawa, it was thought that a national and not a provincial inquiry should be instigated.

Plan Is Unworkable.

"As for the platform the member for Delta speaks about, I repeat what I said on the hustings two years ago when charged by him with betrayal of my trust. As far as we could ascertain on thoroughly looking into the situation it would be unworkable to attempt to operate mines in B. C. if the provincial government were to be a full partner in the undertaking. It would never be a workable or profitable thing. It may be that the time will come when B. C. will be in a position to operate government-owned coal measures."

Mr. Jardine (Esquimalt): "After we have given away all the coal lands."

The Premier: "No. There are still thousands of acres of coal lands in this province."

Mr. Oliver: "Where in B. C. has an acre of coal lands been reserved by this government?"

The Premier: "As far as my information goes, there are immense areas in Peace river district, East Kootenay, and Telqua district."

Mr. Oliver: "How much of this has been reserved?"

The Premier: "No reserve has been put on so far with regard to the coal. We are anxious to encourage prospectors to go in and discover the coal."

Mr. Oliver: "The premier stated that there were thousands of acres of known coal areas and he talks of prospectors."

The Premier: "While coal mines have been operating in Nicola in the last few years, as well as in the Kootenays, until quite recently all the coal mines in the province were on Vancouver island had the field to themselves. The province of British Columbia as a business concern was never in a position to go into the coal business in competition with any of these concerns, because we could not find sufficient money to carry on the public service and look after the civil service as well."

The Platform of 1903

Mr. Oliver: "Was the platform of 1903 a gold brick, then?"

The Premier: "So well did the people of the province understand our point of view that in 1906 the government was returned by ten-fold its majority in 1903. This has not always been a party of perfection. There may have been some cases where it has made professions it was unable to implement later, but it always took the people into its confidence. I am sick of hearing the word 'coal.' The member for Delta followed me about during the last provincial campaign, and always gave the same talk, about this 'gold brick' which he brings up in the House today."

Mr. Oliver: "How often did I meet the hon. gentleman in that campaign. Just once, if I remember well."

The Premier: "It was not my fault that you did not meet me oftener."

Mr. Oliver: "Well, I do not have my election expenses paid by the government."

The Premier: "Not a cent of my travelling expenses was paid by the government."

Here there were cries of "Take it back."

Premier McBride: "Oh, he never takes anything back."

Mr. Oliver: "What did the platform mean? Was it only a man of straw?"

The Premier: "The platform was that of every coal area staked, a part should be reserved for the people of British Columbia."

Mr. Oliver: "And it also stipulated that if necessary the coal mines might at some future time be operated by the government."

The Premier: "There was nothing further than what I have said in the platform. Wherever there was an area of, say, 640 acres, the government would be entitled to, say, 160 acres. The first problem would be the segregation of this 160 acres."

Mr. Oliver: "This is the first time this proposition has ever been made in public. The platform at that time contained nothing of the kind."

A Co-Partnership Scheme

The Premier: "I used the figures merely to illustrate. It was a co-partnership of the government and the operator. After the problem of segregation arose that of respective interests. The province might get nothing and the prospector everything, or vice versa. The province has the right to levy taxes and royalties, and if the time comes when we can, as a business concern, enter into competition with the corporations there will be very little difficulty in so doing. That time is not yet."

Here Mr. Thomson (Victoria) suggested that the House come back to his bill, which had been more than forgotten by this time.

Dr. McGuire withdrew his amendment, stating that the purpose for which it had been inserted had been served.

The bill was reported.

MYSTERIOUS PLAGUE

Little Town of Laprairie Stricken By Disease Which Baffles Skill of Doctors

Montreal, Feb. 15.—With two dead at least, one more dying, and almost ten per cent of the population afflicted with a terrible unknown disease, the town of Laprairie, on the south side of St. Lawrence, is far from being a place of gaiety. One hundred of the 1,100 inhabitants of the town are in bed with black swollen tongues and splitting headaches, and no one, not even the most expert doctors know what is the dread disease which has stricken the community.

For Sunday Work

Montreal, Feb. 15.—The Attorney-General has notified the provincial police to take out summonses for the proprietors of moving picture shows in Montreal for keeping their places open on Sunday, January 31.

Six Months for Forgery

Toronto, Feb. 15.—Alex. McMichael, of Pincher Creek, Alberta, formerly a bank clerk, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment this morning for forgery. He had forged the name of a bank clerk here to a cheque which he got cashed.

Expensive Amusement

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 16.—William Pembroke, whose place was raided recently on the occasion of a big cockfight, today pleaded guilty in the supreme court to an indictment charging him with witnessing a cockfight and was fined $500, which he paid.

J. J. Kelso's Visit

Calgary, Feb. 15.—J. J. Kelso, superintendent of the Ontario department for neglected children, stopped over in Calgary on his way to British Columbia. This evening he addressed the Young Men's club. Tomorrow he will speak at the Canadian club and in the evening at the Y.M.C.A. to a meeting of citizens.

Moral Prince Rupert

Calgary, Feb. 15.—Rev. Dr. Chown, of the department of temperance and moral reform, passed through the city yesterday on his way to Edmonton. He has just come from British Columbia, having been in Prince Rupert for some time. He says that Prince Rupert is the most moral frontier city that has ever been established in America.

TIDE TABLE

Victoria, February, 1909.

Date	Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
1	.....		10 18	9.4	19 14	1.9	.....	
2	.....		10 51	9.4	19 53	1.7	.....	
3	.....		11 29	9.3	20 30	1.7	.....	
4	.....		.....		12 08	9.0	21 05	1.8
5	6 42	8.6	9 30	8.5	12 48	8.7	21 39	2.1
6	6 24	8.3	10 09	8.0	13 31	8.4	22 13	2.6
7	6 28	8.3	10 56	7.6	14 17	7.9	22 47	3.1
8	6 26	8.2	11 52	7.2	15 12	7.5	23 21	3.8
9	6 35	8.3	12 54	6.8	16 24	6.9	23 54	4.6
10	7 00	8.3	13 55	6.2	18 12	6.5	.....	
11	0 25	5.4	7 26	8.4	14 50	5.7	20 21	6.2
12	0 55	6.0	7 46	8.5	15 41	5.0	.....	
13	.....		7 54	8.7	16 27	4.3	.....	
14	.....		7 59	9.0	17 11	3.5	.....	
15	.....		8 18	9.3	17 54	2.7	.....	
16	.....		9 06	9.5	18 38	2.0	.....	
17	.....		10 12	9.6	19 23	1.4	.....	
18	.....		11 24	9.6	20 06	1.1	.....	
19	.....		12 33	9.5	20 49	1.1	.....	
20	4 50	7.9	8 42	7.4	13 39	9.2	21 24	1.4
21	4 58	8.0	9 38	6.7	14 48	8.7	22 11	2.1
22	5 14	8.1	10 43	5.9	16 02	8.1	22 57	2.1
23	5 36	8.3	11 49	5.2	17 24	7.5	23 41	2.2
24	6 08	8.4	12 54	4.5	18 59	7.0	.....	
25	0 23	5.3	6 40	8.6	13 57	3.9	21 10	6.7
26	1 02	6.4	7 10	8.7	14 58	3.3	.....	
27	.....		7 39	8.8	15 58	2.9	.....	
28	.....		8 08	8.8	16 57	2.6	.....	

The time used is Pacific Standard, for the 120th Meridian west. It is counted from 0 to 24 hours, from midnight to midnight. The figures for height serve to distinguish High Water from Low Water.

The height is in feet and tenths of a foot, above the average level of the lowest Low Water in each month of the year. This level is half a foot lower than the datum to which the soundings on the admiralty chart of Victoria harbor are reduced.

ONTARIO GRANT TO G. T. PACIFIC

Objection Made to Terms of Private Bill Introduced in Commons

DOMINION AND PROVINCE

Minister of Militia Refers to Speech Made By General Lake

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—The day's proceedings in the House of Commons were mainly devoted to the discussion of several private bills. One of them, introduced by Mr. Turriff, related to the subsidy granted by the Ontario government to the Grand Trunk Pacific railway for the line running between Fort William and the National Transcontinental. It had been agreed between that province and the railway that if the line was ever sold to the Dominion government the province should be returned the amount of the subsidy, and the company had undertaken to secure this through the present bill. Mr. Graham, minister of railways, stated that he could not accept the policy that any other government or any company could give a guarantee to compel parliament to pass certain legislation. There was also a provision regarding rates which the minister found to be an infringement on the rights of the railway commission. The bill stood over.

Most of the talk centered on Mr. Conmee's bill incorporating the Ontario & Michigan Power company, which was rejected by the Senate last year on the ground that it was an invasion of provincial rights. Today it was given its second reading and sent to the railway committee, where the fight upon it will be waged. The company wants a federal charter, and urges the ground that the waterways affected are an international and navigable stream, parliament being therefore the proper party to issue a charter. It also desires its works to be declared for the general advantage of Canada. Neither the Premier nor Mr. Graham would commit himself, the premier saying that he was doubtful if parliament would pass the bill. Mr. Borden thought that parliament had been too free in the past in declaring purely local works for the general advantage of Canada. Provincial rights had in this way been invaded. With this Mr. Graham agreed.

Sir Frederick Borden referred to the speech recently made in Toronto by General Lake. The general had called his attention to the matter and had supplied him with a copy of his remarks. From this he had convinced himself that the speech had been misrepresented in the condensed report sent out and that there was nothing in the speech as made, to give offense to any one in Canada or to the Japanese Government.

Election Protest

Regina, Sask., Feb. 15.—The Provincial Rights party this morning entered a protest against the election of Hon. W. R. Motherwell in the bye-election for Humboldt during December. It alleges corrupt practices in securing the seat.

Insurance Rates Reduced

Winnipeg, Feb. 15.—The new schedule fixing fire insurance rates in the business district of Winnipeg was made public today. The reduction is about 25 per cent, and is the result of the installation of the high pressure fire system.

Retired Minister Dead

Toronto, Feb. 15.—Rev. Alex. Campbell retired Methodist minister, died at his residence on Simcoe street this morning of heart failure, aged 77 years. He has filled a number of pulpits in Ontario and Quebec during his ministry.

Woman Hangs Herself

North Augusta, Ont., Feb. 15.—Mrs. Joseph Lowler committed suicide by hanging herself in an outhouse yesterday. Her mind has been unbalanced for a year, but she was supposed to have partially recovered as a result of treatment at Brockville asylum.

Gets Seven Years

Winnipeg, Feb. 15.—Charles Parker, who on January 2nd broke into the jewelry store of Charles P. Sterling & Co., and stole four gold watches and a few days ago threw a brick through a window of Robinson & Co.'s departmental store and got away with three gold watches which were on display as bonspiel prizes, was today sentenced to seven years in the Manitoba penitentiary.

Winnipeg Teamsters Locked Out

Winnipeg, Feb. 15.—The Teamsters' union of Winnipeg, whose members have been locked out by the Winnipeg Cartage company, have formally invoked the procedure of the Lemieux act. The department of labor at Ottawa has accepted the application, and has taken necessary steps to constitute a board of arbitration. The local union named J. J. O'Donohue, of Toronto, as its representative on the board, but Mr. O'Donohue has declined to act.

The Practical Joker.

Montreal, Feb. 15.—Mrs. Elizabeth Courchesne, 59 years old, is dead as the result of some practical joker rapping on the windows of her residence. The same thing had occurred before, and when it was repeated last night Madame Courchesne, considerably alarmed, procured a revolver and going to the window at which the noise was being made, threatened to shoot the parties outside if they did not desist. Hardly had she spoken when the old lady expired from heart failure brought on by fright.

Attell and Driscoll

New York, Feb. 15.—Agreement was finally reached today for a ten-round bout between Abe Attell, champion featherweight of the world, and Jem Driscoll, featherweight champion of England, to fight on Friday night at the National club. The match had been previously arranged, but the fighters balked on the weight, and the bout was declared off. It was today agreed to weigh in at 135 pounds and each post a forfeit of $500 in case they failed to make the weight.

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FINE CREEK POWER CO., LIMITED.

Take notice that the annual meeting of the Pine Creek Power Company, Limited, will be held at the office of Bodwell & Lawson, No. 918 Government street, in the city of Victoria, British Columbia, being the registered office of the company, on Wednesday the 17th day of March, 1909, at the hour of 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

Dated the 16th day of February, 1909.

J. M. RUFFNER,
Secretary.

B. C. MILLING & MINING CO., LTD.

The annual general meeting of the above company will be held at the office of the undersigned, Room 11, Promis Block, Victoria, B.C., at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 1st, 1909. By order, A. G. Sargeson, Acting Secretary.

PURE BRED LIVESTOCK

STANDARD Bred S. C. White Leghorns, pullets and hens, for sale, from $1.00 up, from Captain Mitchell's famous laying strain, Santa Barbara, Cal. Ernest T Hanson, Cowichan Station, V. I.

STUMP PULLER for sale or for hire, and contracts taken. G. Ducret, Burnside Road. 113

Crash in Winnipeg Wheat Pit

Winnipeg, Feb. 15.—Ten minutes after the wheat market closed today, the fine new solid bronze chandelier, recently made in Montreal, which hangs in the center of the trading room of the grain exchange, fell with a tremendous crash into the pit, where fifty traders had been assembled not five minutes before and which the clerk of the floor had just left. The chandelier, which weighs 500 pounds, had only been temporarily placed in position two or three days ago, and was hanging on a rope. Workmen had commenced to let it down in order to make some alterations on it, and the rope parted when the chandelier was a quarter of the way down. The chandelier is practically ruined.

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