

BY ORDERS IN COUNCIL

Government Acts Against Express Condition of Statute

Socialist Leader Gets Pet Project Once More Before House—Evasive Answers Made to Questions

(Special to The Daily News)
Press Gallery, Legislative Assembly, Victoria, Feb. 20.—This afternoon's session of the legislature was in part entirely devoted to the consideration in committee of the whole of bill No. 18, an Act to Amend the Land Act, Bill No. 13, an Act Respecting the Use and Manufacture within the Province of Columbia, and an Act Relating to the Transfer of Land, and to Provide for the Registration of Titles to Land, attorney general Wilson offered a long list of verbal amendments following his usual custom of patching up his bills as they pass from stage to stage.

Some progress was made with several private bills and the debate upon Davidson's (Sloan), eight hour smelter bill was adjourned on motion of Bowser (Vancouver).

One interesting feature of the order paper of Hawthornthwaite's bill, an Act to Amend the Provincial Elections Act, by reducing the deposit of candidates from \$200 to \$50. This bill was killed in committee last week, and today Hawthornthwaite moved to have it restored to the order paper. His motion carried and was supported by the entire government, with the exception of the finance minister Tatlow and Price Ellison (Okanagan) the vote standing 22 to 18.

In answer to questions by Oliver (Danco) premier McBride stated that the government had not advised the Pacific Northern & Okanagan Railway company that they were not prepared to admit the liability of the province of the subsidy until a reference was made to the courts, in the same way as the Midway and Vancouver Railway company had been treated. The premier also stated that on August 14 last, he had personally informed Robert Wood and his solicitor, that the government was not prepared to admit the liability of the province of the Midway & Vernon subsidy act.

With regard to further questions by Oliver, in reference to Columbia & Western land grants, the premier said the government had entered into an agreement with the company in respect to these said lands and he presented the orders-in-council setting forth the terms of this agreement. These were the orders-in-council Oliver moved for unsuccessfully on Friday last. It appears that notwithstanding the express terms of the Columbia & Western Subsidy Act of 1896, that the land grant therein provided for was conditional upon the surveys being made within seven years, and the fact that surveys have not been made yet, the government are prepared to turn over the lands to the company and propose bringing in a bill granting the company lands to the extent of \$88,872 acres the balance claimed by the company on account of the subsidy act, the conditions of which they have not complied with.

The following questions and answers show the situation of affairs as they exist today:

Brown (Greenwood) asked the chief commissioner of lands and works:

1. Has the Columbia & Western Railway company made application to the government for land claimed by the company on account of construction of section 3 of its line of railway?
2. If so, when was such application made?

3. How many acres are claimed by the company?

4. Has the government taken action regarding such claims, and if so what action?

5. What lands, if any, have been surveyed by the company in respect to section 3?

6. What surveys, if any, have been accepted by the government?

Chief commissioner Green replied:

1. Yes.
2. August, 1901.
3. 1,000,000 acres are claimed by the company, but surveys having been made for only a portion of such lands, the balance still claimed is \$88,872 acres.
4. Yes. Orders-in-council were approved Feb. 18, 1906, and May 2, 1906.
5. The department is advised that certain surveys have been made in respect to nearly all the blocks selected.
6. None.

(Special to The Daily News)
Press Gallery, Legislative Assembly, Victoria, Feb. 20.—The much debated McGill University bill, finally passed its third reading this afternoon, but without quite a lengthy debate, participated in by the premier, Carter-Cotton, Fulton, the leader of the opposition, Henderson, Hall and both socialist members, the latter of whom in the interval had become hearty supporters of the measure.

The leader of the opposition, in speaking on an amendment offered by Henderson, pointed out that had the bill

been properly prepared and intelligently introduced by the minister of education, there would not have been any difficulty experienced in passing it through the house. The opposition had no objection to the principle of the bill, and welcomed any move calculated to provide better education facilities for the youth of the province, but did not propose to allow the government to push through measures crudely drawn and which might work injury to the educational system.

Henderson's amendment was voted down by 24 to 14, and the bill was read a third time on the same vote.

The debate on the second reading of the Public Schools Amendment Act, was resumed by the leader of the opposition, who simply remarked that the Act of last session should be repealed, and with that object in view moved the following resolution: "That all the words of the resolution after the first word 'that' be struck out and the following words substituted: 'That the operation of the bill be better served by providing the school laws existing before the passage of the Public Schools Act, 1905.'"

Premier McBride replied at great length, with some of his old time force, that has been conspicuously lacking so far this session. His speech was almost entirely covered by a long and noisy attack upon John Oliver, the premier conducted a campaign of misrepresentation of the government's school bill of last session, throughout the province that in no doing he had been attacked by malicious motives, that should bring down upon him the condemnation of every right thinking man and woman in the province. The premier was repeatedly interrupted by Oliver, who asked for specific statements as to the time and place at which he had made his attacks upon the government's school policy. As usual the premier was unable to give particulars, and in more than one instance was compelled to retract, much to the amusement of the opposition benches.

Munro and Evans continued the debate and Murphy moved the adjournment.

Upon the order being called for the continuation of the debate on the motion for the second reading of Price Ellison's bill respecting telephone companies, premier McBride asked that the bill be referred to a committee of inquiry, as an investigation had been ordered by the province of Manitoba, with a view to the establishment of the liability of the telephone company, or otherwise, of that province taking over the operation and control of the telephone system within the province. Enquiry was also being made by the federal government as to the feasibility of the telephone service being taken over by the national government. It was undoubtedly a part of the bill of the government of this province, that telephones should be taken over and operated by the government, and he would be distinctly in favor of this if it could be done.

If it appeared that the province had the financial ability to grapple with the question it should be taken up at once. The premier said, however, he did not think that British Columbia was financially in a position to accept this new responsibility nor could he say when the government could undertake a charter of this province, and approved the motives actuating the course of the member for Okanagan in introducing his bill. The subject was of much public interest, and he thought the government should not lose sight, on the other hand, of the fact, that the company, known as the British Columbia Telephone company, was now operating under a charter in this province, the conditions of whose corporate existence did not permit their charges to exceed a certain fair and specified rate. Under such conditions, and especially in view of the inquiries now on foot both by the province of Manitoba and the dominion, he did not regard the present as an opportune time for the province of British Columbia to adopt legislation of this character; and he therefore suggested to the member for Okanagan that he either permit his bill to stand over for the present, or else withdraw it for the present session.

Price Ellison said he had no objection to the former course being adopted, and the house soon after arose.

GRAND FORKS COUNCIL

City Electrician to Remain—Railways Want Fair Right of Way.

(Special to The Daily News)
Grand Forks, Feb. 20.—At last evening's session of the city council, a resolution was moved and seconded by Ald. McRobbie and Cooper to declare the city electrician's office vacant and to call for new appointments. This motion, however, was lost, the rest of the council being strongly in favor of retaining Mr. Waterson as city electrician.

By a unanimous vote the city council makes nine hours a day's labor for laborers employed on all city works. Laborers have had to work ten hours heretofore.

H. W. Warrington, general superintendent of the Kettle Valley Lines Railway, appeared before the city council last night, and asked that the city council take up the matter of the railway's right of way for his railway through the Grand Forks district.

The leader of school trustees have requested the city council to take the necessary steps towards enlarging the Grand Forks school district. The proposed new district will be bounded by the north by Smelter lake, to the south by the International boundary line, on the east by R. R. Gilpin's ranch, and on the west by 4th of July creek.

FALSE RETURN CHARGED

PAYNE CONCENTRATOR MAKES A HUGE PROFIT

LATE MANAGER IS INCIDENTALLY ATTACKED

(From Wednesday's Daily)

There was a further session of the supreme court held last evening between 8 and 11 o'clock, when the last case but one on the list was partly heard. This case was one that involved the beginning of the shipping of zinc from the mines of the Sloch. It was an action to recover certain moneys from T. W. Jones for value of ore unlawfully laid back on being put through the zinc and lead plant at the Payne mine then under the charge of Mr. Garde, the action being brought by Osborne Plunkett, of Vancouver, who had leased the property to a third party, Turner, whose name the suit was actually started.

The case of Turner vs. Jones being called, S. S. Taylor and M. L. Grimmer appeared for the plaintiff and W. A. Macdonald for the defendant.

S. S. Taylor, in opening the case, said that he included a bill of \$10,000. Jones had some correspondence about the dump of the Great Western mine, Plunkett, who had been in the mine for some time, represented the Lanyon Zinc company, of Iola, Kan. He was there by way of New London, where the Payne magneto separator, which separated the zinc and lead, was being used. Some of the ore in the lead ore that he formerly had little value, according to the percentage of zinc. Zinc lately had no value at all, but Jones had a secret bargain with Plunkett to allow him to treat the ore, and to pay him 10 per cent of the net proceeds. Mr. Taylor maintained that this was a secret bargain, and that Jones had a secret bargain with Plunkett to allow him to treat the ore, and to pay him 10 per cent of the net proceeds. Mr. Taylor maintained that this was a secret bargain, and that Jones had a secret bargain with Plunkett to allow him to treat the ore, and to pay him 10 per cent of the net proceeds.

Mr. Grimmer then read the examination for discovery of T. W. Jones, in which he included a bill of \$10,000. Jones had some correspondence about the dump of the Great Western mine, Plunkett, who had been in the mine for some time, represented the Lanyon Zinc company, of Iola, Kan. He was there by way of New London, where the Payne magneto separator, which separated the zinc and lead, was being used. Some of the ore in the lead ore that he formerly had little value, according to the percentage of zinc. Zinc lately had no value at all, but Jones had a secret bargain with Plunkett to allow him to treat the ore, and to pay him 10 per cent of the net proceeds.

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COMMITTEE TO DECIDE

BOUNDARY POWER CASE IS NOW CONCLUDED

EXPERT EVIDENCE ON PROPOSAL SUBMITTED

(Special to The Daily News)

Victoria, Feb. 20.—The private bill committee this morning completed hearing evidence and argument for and against the proposed amendment of the West Kootenay Power & Light company's act, by which permission is asked to supply power in the Yale district.

The British Columbia Electric company's engineer, Mr. Milne, was present and gave his opinion as an expert upon the question of the feasibility of the proposed arrangement which the Cascade Power & Light company is willing to enter into.

Mr. Milne said that the maximum power of the Cascade company was represented as 2000 horse power. There was an average of 1800 horse power and it was doubtful if there could be more than 1800 horse power permanently established. He was asked if it was feasible to carry out a scheme of having the West Kootenay Power company provide power over the line to the Cascade company. Mr. Milne replied that to put in connections by which the West Kootenay company's power line would be brought to the Cascade company's power house was possible, a good one for about \$15,000 to \$20,000, and to put in the necessary transformers and switchboards, to supply the 1200 horse power would be bringing the cost of the Cascade company from 1600 horse power to 2000 horse power. The remainder of the power supplied by the West Kootenay company might be transmitted over its own line, which would be a very cheap way of doing it.

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ANDERSON'S RAKE OFF

WHEN HARD PRESSED HE FINALLY OWNS UP.

CONTINUATION OF KAIEN ISLAND LAND GRANT.

(Special to The Daily News)

Victoria, Feb. 20.—The Kaien Island land grant investigation was resumed this evening, James Anderson being on the stand during the entire session. A spat between J. A. Macdonald and W. R. Ross, in which the latter came off second best, was a feature of the session.

Macdonald moved that Anderson be ordered to produce his bank book and stub cheques, Anderson having declined to do anything of the sort when requested to do so by Macdonald.

Ross opposed Macdonald's motion, saying he was only attempting a grand stand play for the benefit of the press. Macdonald took serious objection to Ross' entirely uncalculated insinuation, and said his conduct should be reprimanded by the committee.

Anderson was pressed by Macdonald to state what he received from Larsen in payment for his services in securing the Kaien Island townsite for the Grand Trunk Pacific.

The witness declined to answer, alleging that it was impossible for him to separate his wages from the money which he had received from Larsen in a transaction from other undertakings in which they were mutually concerned.

Macdonald then moved that Anderson be ordered to answer this question. Anderson upheld Macdonald's motion. Ross declared that the motion was not in order, and in any event he was not prepared to answer it without a reference to the speaker.

Pateron declared it was up to the chairman to decide the point.

The chairman appealed to Dr. Young, who said he thought Anderson might answer the question without disclosing matter not connected with Kaien Island land grant matters.

Anderson again declined this to be impossible, and the chairman then said he would refer the point to the deputy attorney-general who was present.

Macdonald, the deputy attorney-general, promptly replied that Anderson must answer the question, even if he had to disclose matters not relevant to the enquiry.

Ross took exception to Macdonald's ruling as exceeding the scope of the enquiry and as wrong in law.

Macdonald maintained that his ruling was correct and for a few moments there appeared likely to be a deadlock, when Anderson broke in and said that he would give the particulars asked for.

possibly to enforce payment, should be forwarded to the provincial minister of finance and doled back quarterly. If that was the only means that could be devised, the government should at least bear the financial burden for the first three months of the operation of the act, so that boards of trustees might have a fund to begin with, and not be in the position of having undertaken financial responsibilities that they cannot fulfill at once, and possibly never in full.

But there is a better, more prompt, less vexatious and less costly way of providing a school fund. The suggestion of the member for Delta, that a uniform school rate be levied throughout the province in addition to, and collected in connection with, the regular taxes to the government, was in the right direction, and would undoubtedly be an improvement on the system now in force, and also on the system proposed in the amending bill now before the house.

But it would probably result in popular and prosperous school districts receiving much more than was required for their schools, and poorer districts receiving an utterly inadequate amount. A combination of the two proposals might be better than either. Boards of trustees, except in incorporated cities which are but little affected by the change, might be allowed to decide the sums to be raised for their several districts, and on the advice of the provincial assessor for the district, to fix the rate. But their duties should not be added to the government rate, collected in connection with it, and the proceeds to be handed to the boards to administer.

The duties of the assessors should also be simplified by amending the boundaries of school districts so that all shall be bounded by straight lines. No injury would be caused by including a little more land in school districts, but a serious difficulty now exists owing to the curved lines bounding many districts.

Nothing has yet appeared to refute the charge already made that the interests of the schools, pupils, parents, teachers and trustees, have been wholly subordinated to the purpose of relieving the government of a part of its uncontrollable expenditure. That object has been pursued with callous disregard of the results that may follow to the educational interests from the means adopted.

Many boards of trustees have already shown an entirely praiseworthy willingness to undertake the management of their schools and to perform to the best of their abilities the onerous duties laid upon them by the act. It is a pity that if their public spirited efforts are thwarted by ministerial carelessness or incapacity.

In any case the School Acts should be consolidated at once, so that no board of trustees can possibly construe the act of 1905 in connection with amendments now proposed.

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MORE TO BE FILLED

Power Plant May Be Ready Before Date Predict- ed by Mayor

City Engineer Reports to Council That Rate of Progress Is Better Than Ex- pected—Library Deferred

That the city power plant on Kootenay river may be in operation before the end of June was the best news disclosed at the meeting of the city council last night. The opinion was expressed by city engineer McCulloch, who said that the work of construction was well advanced, and that he had expected would be found faster.

The special committee on the Carnegie library proposal reported that the work of construction was well advanced, and that he had expected would be found faster.

Alderman Annable's proposal for encouraging the planting of shade trees was endorsed and the necessary instructions were given to the city engineer. The rate by-law received all but its final reading, when it was resolved to postpone it until the 15th of March.

The council met at 8 o'clock. Present, Mayor Gillett, in the chair, and Aldermen Sloan, Annable, Kirkpatrick and Irving. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

The finance committee reported, recommending the payment of accounts totaling \$7,513.33, and a payroll of \$18.90; recommending that the city's revenue be increased \$1 a month, and that no action be taken on H. G. Cumming's request, that he be appointed a city engineer, that he had accepted H. E. Sharp's audit for the year 1905, and that the report be read. On motion of alderman Sloan, the report was adopted.

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GROBE GETS JUDGMENT

LAW POINTS RAISED AT COURT SITTINGS YESTERDAY

SESSION PROLONGED UNTIL NEAR SUNDAY MORNING

The case of Grobe versus Doyle occupied the attention of the court from 10.30 o'clock yesterday morning until 10.15 o'clock at night when it was finished by judgment being given in favor of the plaintiffs. The case bristled with points of law and time was as much occupied with the remarks of the bench and the learned elucidations of the law by counsel as by the witnesses.

The first witness to be placed on the stand yesterday morning was A. B. Buckworth, who gave evidence as to the particular meaning of "net proceeds." Mr. Buckworth said that when applied to ore shipped to the smelter it meant the money paid by the smelter to the shipper for the ore. The sum was arrived at by deducting the railway, freight and smelter treatment charges from the gross smelter value of the ore.

Manager E. M. Hand, of the Ymir, said the same thing.

Manager G. Barnhardt, of the Second Relief, attached the same meaning to "net proceeds." He said that when he visited the workings in the Yankee Girl in July last, the development work done was merely to reach ore bodies which had been gouged out in various directions, on either side above or below, it had been the mine by taking away the high grade shipping ore, and the property had rendered it far less valuable from a selling point of view. Development work should be done on the ore bodies.

Cross-examined by Mr. Macdonald. Had the ore been shipped by the owner, that owner would not be shipping in the best interests of his mine. He would be gouging, and taking the high grade and leaving his low grade ore, if only for milling when the mine is not equipped with a mill.

D. E. Grobe said he agreed with manager Barnhardt as to the manner in which the property was being worked. The defendants were taking out the ore exposed by development made by themselves or made by their taking possession of the workings.

Cross-examined.—The defendants had done altogether about 88 feet of development work, and were drifting. He did not know what work had been done by them after July 1. Sometime in May ore began to be shipped. Defendants began to mine about April 1. In June witnesses went up to the property and looked at it and at the books. He discovered that all kinds of charges, some of them very foolish, had been made. He and his party went to the mine and got the property back. The agreement broken as the mine was being robbed as well as himself. He tried to get S. S. Fowler to examine the mine, but Mr. Fowler refused to come. He then asked Mr. Barnhardt to do this, which was done on July 17. Early in June he had asked Mr. Doyle why no money was being paid to him for the ore. Mr. Doyle said there were no net proceeds, claiming a right to deduct mining charges. Witnesses disputed this. Two or three conversations followed, and finally Mr. Doyle agreed to leave the construction of the meaning of net proceeds to arbitrators. This was about July 1. But then Mr. Doyle decided to mine again, and he would take net proceeds to mean net production. Then legal proceedings were taken, after the mine had been inspected by Mr. Barnhardt and the work was stopped July 23.

Mr. Doyle declared that when the property was taken over by the Doylees about \$28,000 worth of development was done, and that the Doylees took out the top of the stopes. The ore the Doylees took out was from the old development work as well as from the new.

J. H. Graham, a practical miner, said he had seen the mine on June 13 or 14, and had protested against the manner of working. R. J. Doyle said he was not shipping a cubic yard of ore. By and by the witness saw more coming and he again went up and protested where R. J. Doyle abused him and threatened to sue him.

There was no development work done for the purpose of showing up the property in order to determine its value to an intending purchaser. The ore had been mined and shipped, and the witness wanted to scrape together a little something to take them out of the court.

Cross-examined: witness admitted receiving two payments of \$100 each, royalties, from the defendants.

To the court witness said he was not a man of means, neither he nor his partners, and Doyle knew that all right, he didn't need to be long in the country and that out.

This was the case for the plaintiffs.

M. V. Doyle, called for the defense, said he was the brother of the defendant and had worked as foreman on the Yankee Girl. He had done about 90 feet of development work and could not get the work done in a practical manner. The ore taken out was not milling but smelting ore. The ore left in the mine was not run more than 150 a day.

Cross-examined.—Witness had not received his wages. He did not know his brother's salary nor whether either his brothers had any means. On being shown discrepancies in the plan reduced by the defence witness replied that he did not make the sketch. There had never any ore in sight in the Yankee Girl. Witness had taken out altogether about 600 tons of ore.

Re-examined.—Ore in sight meant ore looked out with a clear passage all the way above and below and on both sides. The ore was in sight or ore developed.

By the court.—There was no ore in a mine when the witness left which could be got out with the same facility as the one which witness found when

