

AGRI-CULTURE
DISCARDED

Not in Favor of Mr. Helmecken's Motion re Corliss Amendment.

Moves to Ask the Federal Government for a Retaliatory Measure.

Amendment and Resolution Withdrawn—Protection of the Forests

Private Bills Read a First Time—Some interesting Questions and answers.

Monday, 1st March, 1897.

Speaker took the chair at two o'clock; prayers by Rev. W. Leslie Clay. Kennedy drew attention to the records of the house for the day.

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agitate for the repeal of such a law. It was not worth the while of the legislature to deal with the matter.

Mr. Semlin was opposed to the resolution, as it would be construed by the United States as meaning that the Canadians were anxious to go there and would only make them more determined to pass the Corliss bill.

Hon. Col. Baker would oppose both the resolution and the amendment, as he believed it would be time enough to set when the Corliss amendment became law. He paid the Americans a compliment for the enterprise they showed in developing Kootenay mines.

Mr. Sward thought if the legislature took the high ground that it was unworthy of a civilized nation to pass such a measure, it would be inconsistent to also say that they were prepared to adopt similar legislation. He would oppose both the resolution and the amendment.

Mr. Helmecken did not believe in postponing a matter of this kind. That was a characteristic way of the legislature in dealing with important questions.

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POINT ELICE BRIDGE.

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members regarding the provisions of the Forest Act. His objection was that the government did not wish to enforce the provisions of that act.

The resolution was then put and declared lost.

The house went into committee, with Mr. Ribbet in the chair, to further consider the Farmers' Institute bill.

The following private bills were introduced by the members named, read a first time, and referred to the private bills committee:

By Mr. Bryden—An act respecting the purchase of the Cumberland and Union Water Works Company.

By Mr. Semlin—An act respecting the consolidation of the Thompson River Mining Company.

By Mr. Kelle—An act respecting the incorporation of the Revelstoke Water Works, Electric Light & Power Company, Limited.

By Mr. Hume—An act to incorporate the Kootenay Electric Light Company, Limited.

By Mr. Hume—An act to authorize the British Columbia Power and Light Company to develop water power on the head of Orielle river and to install an electric plant at that place.

By Mr. Hume—An act to amend the Kootenay Power Company's Construction Act.

By Mr. Graham—An act to incorporate the Greenwood City Water Works Company.

By Mr. Cotton—An act respecting the Cottonwood river (B.C.) Alluvial Gold Mining Company, Limited (Foreign).

By Mr. Helmecken—An act to incorporate the Grand Forks Water Power and Light Company, Limited.

By Mr. Rogers—An act to amend the "Cassiar Railway Company's Consolidation Act, 1894."

By Mr. Hume—An act to incorporate the Kaslo-Larlo-Duncan Railway Company.

By Mr. Rogers—An act to incorporate the Barkerville, Ashcroft and Cariboo Railway Company.

By Mr. Hume—An act to incorporate the East Kootenay Railway Company.

By Mr. Booth—An act to incorporate the Vancouver Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company.

By Captain Irving—An act to incorporate the Cassiar railway.

By Mr. Helmecken—An act to amend the Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster Railway Company Act, 1894.

By Mr. Helmecken—An act to amend the "Delta, and City of Victoria, and Eastern Railway Company Act, 1894."

By Mr. Cotton—An act to incorporate the Vancouver, Nanaimo Railway and Transfer Company.

REPORTS.

Mr. Booth presented the following report of the private bills committee: "That the standing orders have been complied with in connection with the following petitions: 34. Petition of the Grand Forks Water Power and Light Company; 35. Petition of Port Steele and Golden Railway; 43. Petition of Stickeen and Teslin Lake railway, except in so far as petition asks for power to build a branch line to the Lake."

With reference to the petition of the Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company (Foreign), presented to the house on February 25th, your committee beg to report that after hearing the statement of the Paris Ivan Packard, the agent of the said company, as to the cause which prevented the company complying with the standing orders, and regarding the presentation of petitions, is of opinion that the standing orders should be suspended so as to admit of the said petition being presented, and beg to recommend the same accordingly.

Mr. Booth presented a report of the private bills committee stating that the standing orders had not been complied with in the case of the petition of the Bedlington & Nelson Railway Company, and the petition of Chester Glass.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. Braden asked the hon. the minister of mines: "What right (if any) have the government of British Columbia to the minerals which were reserved to the Hudson Bay Company in lands sold by them to settlers on Vancouver Island?"

Hon. Col. Baker replied: "The Hudson Bay Company held by letters patent from Her Majesty, dated 13th of January, 1846, the whole of Vancouver Island, together with all the mines royal, etc. On the 3rd of April, 1857, the company conveyed to Her Majesty all of the said island, with the mines royal, etc., excepting thereout certain lands in Victoria city and all lands in Victoria district which had been sold by them prior to January 1, 1852, together with certain other parcels of land in Victoria district held by the company for their own use. The company's deeds of lands sold by them to individuals reserve the mines royal and the right of entry for mining, etc., to the company."

Mr. Kennedy asked the attorney-general: "Is Dr. Watt, the secretary of the provincial board of health, the same Dr. Watt who is in charge of the Dominion quarantine station at William Head? If so, can the provincial board expect to be informed of any laxity in enforcing the rules at said station?"

Hon. Mr. Eberts—Dr. Watt, who was formerly secretary of the provincial board of health, is the Dr. Watt referred to. Dr. Watt is not now secretary to the provincial board of health.

Mr. Kennedy said the last portion of his question was not answered, and Mr. Eberts replied that the question was asked on the assumption that Dr. Watt was secretary of the provincial board of health and he no longer occupies that office.

Hon. Mr. Turner explained that Dr. Watt's resignation was received nearly a month ago, but as the annual report of the board was not completed, the resignation was not accepted until a short time ago.

Mr. Helmecken asked the premier:

She must have Nourishment and can get it in a palatable and easily digested form by taking Johnston's Fluid Beef. It Strengthens.

"Has the government, or any member thereof, taken any step (and if so, what?) with the corporation of the city of Victoria, or any member thereof, and the Consolidated Railway Company or any member thereof, leading to or suggesting a settlement of the claim of persons who sustained injury or damage by reason of the Point Ellice Bridge accident on the 20th of May last?"

NOTICE OF MOTION.

By Dr. Walkem—For a return giving a detailed statement of the travelling expenses of ministers on duty, together with a statement of any advances made in connection therewith and the dates thereof—such return to embrace the period between June 30, 1896, and the 31st December, 1896.

RETURNS.

Hon. Mr. Eberts presented a return showing the number of certificates of title which have been issued in the land offices since the Land Registry Act came into force to be: Victoria, 20,972; Vancouver, 5,433; Westminster, 17,500; and Kamloops, 1,275. Certificates of indefeasible title: Victoria, 325; Vancouver, 3; Westminster 22; and Kamloops 0.

Hon. Mr. Martin presented the following return of the dues collected on cowbonds in the different districts of the province, as provided for in the Land Act of 1896:

In Cassiar district \$ 634 25
In New Westminster district 423 75
In West Kootenay district 6,573 80
Total \$7,651 80

Tuesday, March 2, 1897.

The Speaker took the chair at two o'clock; prayers by the Rev. W. Leslie Clay.

Mr. Graham presented a petition from Grand Forks against the incorporation of that place. The petition was received and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Kelle presented a petition from residents of Revelstoke in favor of the Revelstoke Water Power Co. The petition was received and ordered to be printed.

TOWNS AND CITIES BILL.

When the report on the bill intitled "An Act to Accelerate the Incorporation of Towns and Cities" came up for consideration, Mr. Kitchen dropped his amendment and Mr. Rogers moved an amendment to the effect that no money could be borrowed by any of the cities mentioned without being subject to the approval of the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council.

Mr. Hume wanted Mr. Rogers to explain why he wanted such an amendment inserted.

Mr. Rogers replied that it would be well to have such a safeguard in the bill.

Mr. Kelle could not see why the town of Rossland should be under the censorship of the Lieutenant-Governor. The argument advanced by Mr. Rogers was a lame one. Rossland was quite able to elect men that would look after their own interests.

Dr. Walkem also opposed the amendment. He objected to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council having anything to do with municipal government. He would like to see the act so amended, however, as to give the property-holders some say in how the money is to be expended.

Hon. Mr. Eberts saw no objectionable feature in the amendment, as the government had no desire to interfere with municipal governments, nor would they if the amendment passed.

Mr. Cotton remarked that Hon. Mr. Eberts was arguing against the bill which he himself brought down. He thought that the government were not able to use satisfactorily the powers given them by the act without the censorship of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, the introduction of the act was a mistake. If the arguments of the Attorney-General were of any force at all, they meant that the bill should be withdrawn. His arguments were neither consistent nor suitable.

Mr. Semlin held that the government were offering those cities certain powers with one hand and withdrawing them with the other. The people could not indict such financial injury on themselves when they are limited to the expenditure of a sum not exceeding \$50,000.

Major Mutter maintained the government were justified in placing a safeguard in the bill.

Hon. Col. Baker said the government had nothing to do with the amendment. It was introduced by a private member. Any government measure may be so amended by a private member.

Mr. McPherson said the government had not the backbone to introduce such an amendment themselves and induced Mr. Rogers to move the amendment. The government were afraid of offending the people of Rossland and Nelson. It would be seen that every member of the government would vote for the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Turner said the government would rather have nothing to do with the matter, as it would probably entail unpleasant work on the government, but the government had the pluck to undertake this work. He denied that the government had anything to do with the amendment, although he approved of it. He did not think the amendment would injure anyone in those cities.

Mr. Kennedy could not see why further restrictions were required than those contained in section 11. It distinctly said there that the expenditure in Rossland cannot exceed \$50,000 during 1897. From the representatives of Rossland who are down here it was

learned that this is a very small sum indeed.

Mr. Kidd would have no hesitation in saying that the people of Rossland and other towns would know better than the government what money they required. He considered the amendment in the wrong direction.

Mr. Kitchen held that it would have been better to enforce the municipal act than make such an amendment.

Mr. Sward was opposed to the amendment. The towns about to be incorporated could certainly make mistakes, but the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council was also not incapable of making mistakes. The amendment was then put and lost on the following division:

Ayes—Messrs. Bryden, Rogers, Irving, Braden, Turner, Smith, Mutter, Huff—9.

Noes—Messrs. Baker, Ribbet, Adams, Stoddart, Walkem, Sward, Semlin, Cotton, Graham, Kitchen, Kennedy, Hume, McPherson, Kidd, McGregor, Helmecken, Martin—17.

Mr. Rogers then moved the following: "To amend sub-section (a) of section 12 of the said act by adding the following words:—'And it shall also be lawful for the said cities, or any of them, and they are and each of them is hereby empowered to construct, equip, operate and maintain a system of electric lighting for domestic and other purposes within and about the said municipalities or any of them.'"

Mr. Rogers wished this amendment passed to put the electric light on the same basis as water.

Mr. Kelle objected to such an amendment, as it would saddle those cities with too much expenditure the first year.

British Columbia.

VANCOUVER. At a meeting of the directors of the Two Friends mine, in the Sloan district, a dividend of 2 1/2 per cent. was declared, payable March 31st.

ASHROFT. B. C. Mining Journal. The hills in the vicinity of town will be thoroughly prospected this summer. Queenella is reported as having no idle men. About 70 men are working on the Cottonwood claim.

NEW DENVER. The ledge. Ore from the Bonanza King to the value of \$130,000 has been sent to the smelters. A good strike of rube silver ore was made on the Fisher Maudy on Tuesday.

REVELSTOCK. News of a terrible occurrence at the Orphan Boy was brought by Messrs. Lane and Balchenhouse, two miners employed at the mine. A week ago last Thursday Alphonse Bourcier, a well known and popular young miner, who has been working for the last six weeks on the claim, was busy in the blacksmith's shop thawing out dynamite in hot water.

REVELSTOCK. The Revelstock branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada opened its doors to the public at 10 a.m. on Wednesday. The manager in charge is for the present A. Jukes of Vancouver, who is assisted by Mr. Phipps, of the same branch.

REVELSTOCK. The men in the Josie No. 3 tunnel expect to make connections to-morrow. The tunnel cuts into the engine shaft at a depth of 100 feet.

REVELSTOCK. The body of a man named Sherwood has been found on the Rover Creek trail. Deceased, who was interested in claims higher up the creek, had been in Nelson for a day or two and was returning to work. It is supposed that he was overtaken with fatigue and fell asleep by the wayside, where he was frozen to death.

REVELSTOCK. The free mine of the island hope that provision will be made during this session for some wharf accommodation on the island. And if the mines are to ship, the present roads and trails must be made to get supplies in and ores out.

REVELSTOCK. William Haupt has sold the Contact mineral claim, situated on Perry creek to C. D. Porter, of Spokane. The claim is a gold proposition, was located last July and is considered a good property.

REVELSTOCK. The owners of the Big Chief group of mines which are situated on the North Star mountain, are developing the property. They are silver-lead propositions, and have a three foot lead of fine galena, which can be traced for several hundred feet.

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Advertisement for Paine's Celery Compound, featuring text like 'Loyal Canadian People', 'They should be strong and healthy', and 'Paine's Celery Compound'. It includes a small illustration of a man and a woman.

Advertisement for S. Castor, featuring text like 'S. Castor', 'For Infants and Children', and 'Castor Oil'. It includes a small illustration of a child.

Advertisement for 'The Essential Matter to be Prepared for Any Emergency', featuring text like 'The Essential Matter to be Prepared for Any Emergency' and 'It is painful to pick up the daily papers and observe how people of all classes are being stricken down by heart disease and apoplexy'.

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