

JOURNALS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF THE PROVINCE OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA.

SESSION 1898.

Thursday, 10th February, 1898.

THREE O'CLOCK, P. M.

This being the first day of the fourth meeting of the Seventh Parliament or Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, for the dispatch of business, pursuant to a Proclamation of His Honour the Honourable THOS. R. McINNES, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, dated the thirtieth day of December, 1897.

His Honour the Honourable *Thos. R. McInnes*, Lieutenant-Governor, having entered the House, took his seat on the Throne and read the following telegram from the Governor-General of Canada :—

“OTTAWA, February 10th, 1898

“*His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia :*

“I beg to offer hearty congratulations upon the auspicious occasion of the opening of the new Parliament Buildings, and on behalf of Lady Aberdeen and myself, to express cordial good wishes for their success in contributing to the welfare and dignity of the Province, Dominion and Empire.

(Signed) “*ABERDEEN.*”

His Honour was then pleased to deliver the following gracious Speech :—

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly :

It is a source of much pleasure to me to meet you in this the first year of my office as Lieutenant-Governor, and to congratulate you on the completion of these stately Government Buildings, so worthy of the Province, so admirably adapted for the purposes for which they were designed, and in which you are now assembled for the first time.

I am gratified to find that the revenue of the country is expanding to such dimensions as to indicate the rapid development of our undoubted resources in minerals and other natural products.

The vast discoveries of gold in the Yukon region will give a great stimulus to commercial enterprise throughout the Province, and, in view of the urgent necessity of securing an all-Canadian route to the Yukon, a measure will be laid before you for furthering that object as expeditiously as possible.

The widespread discoveries of mineral wealth in the Province indicates the importance of affording increased transportation facilities for their development, and I commend for your careful consideration certain measures which will be introduced tending to that desirable end.

I have much pleasure in informing you that the efforts you made on former occasions to assist the Crow's Nest Railway have—in conjunction with aid from the Dominion Government—resulted in the active construction of that railway, and there is every prospect of its completion as far as Nelson during the present year. By this means the extensive coal fields in the Crow's Nest Pass will be made available, and the importance to the mining industry of a good and cheap fuel cannot be exaggerated.

I am happy to inform you that negotiations are in progress for insuring the early construction of the Victoria, Vancouver and Eastern Railway, which will open up the rich mining camps and agricultural lands along the route.

A measure will be introduced to you, having for its object redistribution in connection with the Electoral Districts.

It is satisfactory to learn that the abundant harvest of last year has relieved the depression which formerly existed in our agricultural industry.

In view of the adaptability of our Province for Dairy Farming, steps will be taken for promoting its development.

Our Fisheries have maintained their high reputation, and offer a wide range for further expansion.

The Timber industry has shown marked improvement during the past year.

The revision of the Statutes has been completed, and legislation will be introduced to give effect to the work of the Commissioners.

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing year will shortly be laid before you.

With every confidence that your labours will be directed to the honour and advantage of the Province, and to the proper development of its resources, I now leave you to your deliberations, trusting that Divine Providence will guide and assist your efforts.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was then pleased to retire.

Prayers by the Lord Bishop of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker reported that, to prevent, mistakes, he had obtained a copy of His Honour's Speech.

Ordered, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof, and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

Resolved, That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a Member of this House, or endeavoured so to be, by bribery or other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices.

Ordered, That the Select Standing Committees of this House, for the present Session, be appointed for the following purposes:—

1. On Standing Orders and Private Bills;
2. On Public Accounts;
3. On Printing;
4. On Railways;
5. On Mining;

which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as shall be referred to them by the House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for papers, persons and records.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Turner*, seconded by the Hon. Colonel *Baker*,—

Resolved, That the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be taken into consideration on Monday next.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 1) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Execution Act.'"

Leave granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Monday next.

Mr. *Adam Swart Vedder*, having taken the oath, was introduced by Messrs. *Semlin* and *Sword* and took his seat.

The following papers were read and ordered to be placed on the Journals of the House:—

"OTTAWA, ONT., February 10th, 1898.

"*The Hon. Mr. Speaker, Legislative Assembly,*

"*Victoria, B. C.*"

"The Governor-General desires to express his regret that he is unavoidably prevented from accepting the courteous invitation to be present at the opening ceremonies, and to express his hearty congratulations and good wishes.

"DAVID ERSKINE,

"*Governor-General's Secretary.*"

"VANCOUVER, B. C., February 7th, 1898.

"*Hon. D. W. Higgins,*

"*Victoria, B. C.*"

"MY DEAR SIR,—Feeling that a more appropriate time could not be chosen to present to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia a keepsake of the old historic 'Beaver,' than on the occasion of the opening of the new Parliament Buildings, I have prepared this gavel from relics of the steamer, which I trust your honourable body will be pleased to accept.

"May its ring in the Legislative halls command the same respect that was accorded the little steamer in by-gone days by the aborigines, especially in 1843, when *James Douglas* and his little party of *Hudson's Bay* people put into *Camosun Bay* (*Victoria Harbour*) and laid the foundations of what is to-day one of the most promising and glorious Provinces under Her Majesty's flag.

"Very respectfully yours,

"C. W. McCAIN.

"P. S.—Mr. *Williams*, M. P. P., has kindly consented to take it over to *Victoria*, so I expect to send it in his care."

"SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,

"4th February, 1898.

"*Thornton Fell, Esq.,*

"*Clerk of the Legislative Assembly:*"

"Whereas a vacancy occurred in the Legislative Assembly in consequence of the death of *Thomas Edwin Kitchen*, Esquire, a member for the Riding of *Chilliwack*, of the *Westminster* Electoral District:

"And whereas on the 20th day of April, 1897, a writ for the election of a member to represent such Riding was duly issued to *Justinian Pelly*, Esquire, the Returning Officer of the said Riding:

"Now I do hereby certify that on the 13th day of May, 1897, the said writ was returned to me by the said Returning Officer, with his certificate attached, whereby it appears that *Adam Swart Vedder*, Esquire, has been, under and by virtue of the said writ, elected a member to represent the said Riding of *Chilliwack*, of the *Westminster* Electoral District, in the Legislative Assembly.

"B. H. TYRWHITT DRAKE,

"*Registrar, Supreme Court.*"

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock on Monday next.

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* presented, by command of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Public Accounts for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1897.

Prayers by the Right Rev. Bishop *Cridge*.

And then the House adjourned at 4:15 o'clock, p. m.

Monday, 14th February, 1898.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Lord Bishop of Columbia.

The following Petitions were presented:—

By Mr. *Kellie*, from *J. D. Sibbald* and others, ratepayers of *Revelstoke*, re incorporation of the *City of Revelstoke*.

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper* and others, for leave to present a Petition for leave to introduce a Private Bill re *Argenta-Dawson-Duncan Railway Company*.

By Mr. *Hume*, from *R. T. Williams*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The South-East Kootenay Railway Company."

By Mr. *McGregor*, from "The Nanaimo Electric Light, Power and Heat Company," for a Private Bill giving extended powers.

By Mr. *Cotton*, from *Wm. McKenzie* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The North Star and Arrow Lake Railway Company."

By Mr. *Kellie*, from *A. B. Cotton*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Revelstoke and Cassiar Railway Company."

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *Harry Abbott* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Mountain Tramway and Electric Company."

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *Edward George Villiers* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Omineca Railway Company."

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *C. W. D. Clifford*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kitimat Railway Company."

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented the Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Public Schools of the Province.

The following document was read by the Clerk:—

"VICTORIA, B. C., 14th February, 1898.

"To the Hon. D. W. Higgins, M. P. P.,

"Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Victoria, B. C.:

"SIR,—I have the honour to enclose, for distribution to the Honourable Members of the House, a little souvenir in commemoration of the auspicious occasion of the opening of the new Parliament Buildings.

"I trust they will be received and appreciated by the members.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"E. A. MORRIS."

Pursuant to Order, the House proceeded to take into consideration the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

Major *J. M. Mutter* moved, seconded by Mr. *Wm. Adams*,—

1. That an humble Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, to thank His Honour for his gracious Speech at the opening of the Fourth Session of the Seventh Parliament, and further to assure His Honour that we are fully alive to the responsibilities of our position, and that we will endeavour to consider the interests of the people with wisdom and thoughtfulness.

2. That we have much pleasure in meeting you in this the first year of your office as Lieutenant-Governor, and to accept your congratulations on the completion of these stately Government Buildings, so worthy of the Province, so admirably adapted for the purposes for which they were designed, and in which we are now assembled for the first time.

3. That we are gratified to learn that the revenue of the country is expanding to such dimensions as to indicate the rapid development of our undoubted resources in minerals and other natural products.

4. That we are happy to learn that the vast discoveries of gold in the Yukon region will give a great stimulus to commercial enterprise throughout the Province, and, in view of the urgent necessity of securing an all-Canadian route to the Yukon, we will carefully consider any measure laid before us for furthering that object as expeditiously as possible.

5. That we are pleased to be advised that the widespread discoveries of mineral wealth in the Province indicate the importance of affording increased transportation facilities for their development, and will give our careful consideration to certain measures which will be introduced tending to that desirable end.

6. That we have much pleasure in being informed that the efforts made on former occasions to assist the Crow's Nest Railway have—in conjunction with aid from the Dominion Government—resulted in the active construction of that railway, and that there is every prospect of its completion as far as Nelson during the present year. By this means the extensive coal fields in the Crow's Nest Pass will be made available, and the importance to the mining industry of a good and cheap fuel cannot be exaggerated.

7. That we are happy to be informed that negotiations are in progress for insuring the early construction of the Victoria, Vancouver and Eastern Railway, which will open up the rich mining camps and agricultural lands along the route.

8. That we will earnestly deliberate upon any measure introduced having for its object redistribution in connection with the Electoral Districts.

9. That it is satisfactory to learn that the abundant harvest of last year has relieved the depression which formerly existed in our agricultural industry.

10. That we are glad to hear that in view of the adaptability of our Province for Dairy Farming, steps will be taken for promoting its development.

11. That it affords satisfaction to receive the information that our Fisheries have maintained their high reputation, and offer a wide range for further expansion.

12. That it is pleasant to hear that the Timber industry has shown marked improvement during the past year.

13. That we learn with pleasure that the revision of the Statutes has been completed, and that legislation will be introduced to give effect to the work of the Commissioners.

14. That we will carefully consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing year which will shortly be laid before us.

15. That we thank His Honour for his expression of confidence that our labours will be directed to the honour and advantage of the Province and to the proper development of its resources, and we humbly trust that Divine Providence will guide and assist our efforts.

A debate arose, which was adjourned until to-morrow.

Mr. *Semlin* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following question:—

Has any application been made to the Privy Council direct for leave to appeal against the judgment of the Full Court in the case of *Madden v. The Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway Company*?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows:—

“The Government is not aware that the plaintiffs have made any application to the Privy Council for leave to appeal.

“The Government intervened for the purpose of making such an application to the Full Court, but the same was refused, and the advisability of applying for special leave to the Privy Council is under consideration.”

Mr. *Sword* asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following question:—

What are the rates at present at which the *London* brokers are authorised to proceed with the conversion of the loans of 1877 and 1887, and at what dates were these rates established?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows:—

“Conversion of bonds issued under Loan Act, 1877, entirely discontinued 7th April, 1897. Present rate of conversion of loan of 1887 fixed at 115 at same date.”

Mr. *Graham* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following question:—

What steps (if any) have been taken to enforce the provisions of the “Act to amend the Cattle Act and amending Acts,” chap. 7, 1896?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows:—

“There is no reason to suppose that the Act is not being carried out, and consequently no prosecutions have been instituted for offences against the Act. A prosecution is the only method of enforcement provided by the Act.”

Mr. *Kidd* asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following question:—

What amount of cash stood to the credit of the Government of this Province, on its bank accounts and in the Treasury, on the 10th inst.?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows:—

“To answer this question without explanation might have a misleading tendency. Such information in due course will be supplied by the Public Accounts Committee.”

Mr. *Graham* asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:—

(a.) How many joint stock companies holding free miner’s licences on June 30th, 1897, took out new licences, under the provisions of section 22, “Mineral Act, 1897”?

(b.) What was the total amount paid to the Government on account of such licences?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows:—

“(a.) 447.

“(b.) \$42,700.”

Mr. *Vedder* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following questions:—

Was any investigation made into the manner in which the inquest was held on the body of *Thomas Thomson* (killed by the steamer *Rithet* coming into collision with the fishing skiff in which he was)?

If so, were any, and what, steps taken in regard to the same?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows:—

“1. Yes, the manner of holding the inquest was investigated.

“2. The result of the investigation was not such as to call for any action.”

Mr. *Kellie* asked the Hon. the Premier the following question:—

Why is the revenue collected in the *Nakusp* office credited to the *Nelson* office?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows:—

“Simply as a matter of convenience. It is quite immaterial to which office in West Kootenay District the Sub-Collectors account, as there is no distinction in the revenue collections for East Riding.”

Mr. *Kellie* asked the Hon. the Premier the following questions:—

1. What proposition (if any) did you make the Dominion Government in regard to co-operation in protecting the river bank at *Revelstoke*?

2. Have you received any reply, and, if so, what does the Dominion Government propose doing in the matter?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows:—

“The Provincial Government made proposals to the Dominion Government to join in the immediate construction of the necessary works—the Province to pay one-third (not exceeding \$15,000) of the entire cost.

“The Dominion Government has not yet agreed to these proposals.”

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented Papers relating to the Acts passed by the Legislature of British Columbia during the Session of 1897.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* presented the Reports of Commissioners on Revised Statutes.

On the motion of Mr. *Semlin*, seconded by Mr. *Cotton*, it was *Resolved*,—

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to cause to be laid before the House all correspondence with His Excellency the Governor-General in regard to the “Alien Labour Bill” of last Session, assent to which was reserved, pending His Excellency’s consideration of same.

The following Bills were introduced, read a first time, and *Ordered* to be read a second time to-morrow:—

By the Hon. Mr. *Eberts*—Bill (No. 2) intituled “An Act to give effect to the Revised Statutes of British Columbia.”

By Mr. *Helmcken*—Bill (No. 3) intituled “An Act relating to the employment of Chinese or Japanese persons on Works carried on under Franchises granted by Private Acts.”

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o’clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 6 o’clock, p. m.

Tuesday, 15th February, 1898.

TWO O’CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Canon *Beanlands*.

The following Petitions were received:—

From *J. D. Sibbald* and others, ratepayers of *Revelstoke*, *re* incorporation of the *City of Revelstoke*.

From Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper* and others, for leave to present a Petition for leave to introduce a Private Bill *re* *Argenta-Dawson-Duncan Railway Company*.

From *R. T. Williams*, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The South-East Kootenay Railway Company.”

From “The Nanaimo Electric Light, Power and Heat Company,” for a Private Bill giving extended powers.

From *Wm. McKenzie* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The North Star and Arrow Lake Railway Company.”

From *A. B. Cotton*, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Revelstoke and Cassiar Railway Company.”

From *Harry Abbott* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Mountain Tramway and Electric Company."

From *Edward George Villiers* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Omineca Railway Company."

From *C. W. D. Clifford*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kitimat Railway Company."

Pursuant to Order, the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was resumed.

The debate was further adjourned until to-morrow.

The following petitions were presented :—

By Mr. *Huff*, from *Moses McGregor* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Alice Arm Railway Company."

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *H. Maitland-Kersey* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kitimat Railway Company," in substitution of the Petition presented yesterday re same railway, which was withdrawn.

The following members were nominated on Standing Committees as follows :—

Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders—Messrs. *Hunter, Smith, Helmcken, Stoddart, Sword, Williams, and Cotton.*

Committee on Public Accounts—Messrs. *Rithet, Mutter, McGregor, Kidd, and Forster.*

Committee on Railways—Messrs. *Booth, Rithet, Huff, Rogers, Hunter, Adams, Mutter, Walkem, Bryden, Irving, Kidd, Vedder, Macpherson, Hume, Graham, Forster, Kennedy, and Kellie.*

Committee on Mining—Messrs. *Smith, Adams, Rogers, Walkem, Bryden, McGregor, Braden, Graham, Hume, Kennedy, Vedder, Forster, and Kellie.*

Committee on Printing—Messrs. *Mutter, Booth, Irving, Kennedy, and Macpherson.*

Mr. *Cotton* asked the Hon. the Leader of the Government the following question :—

Has the Government taken any steps to ascertain whether His Excellency the Governor-General has signified his decision as to Bill No. 1 of last Session, intituled the "Alien Labour Bill," which Bill was by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor reserved for his consideration; and, if so, what steps?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows :—

"The usual formalities with reference to Bills passed by the Legislature were carried out. The report of the Attorney-General on the several Bills was in due course forwarded to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. Nothing further has been done, nor is anything further required to be done, for when a decision has been arrived at by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, it will, in accordance with constitutional practice, be intimated to this Government."

Mr. *Cotton* asked the Hon. the Leader of the Government the following question :—

Is it the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to provide for the inspection of boilers of steam engines, the inspection of which is not provided for by Dominion legislation?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows :—

"The matter is being considered."

Mr. *Cotton* asked the Hon. the Minister of Mines the following question :—

How much water has been applied for under the Water Clauses Consolidation Act up to 31st December, 1897, in quantities of 1,000 inches and over, and what is the annual rental payable on same, and the amount paid for recording?

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* replied as follows :—

“From the returns received so far by the Water Commissioner, only two applications have been made under the ‘Water Clauses Consolidation Act,’ in quantities of 1,000 inches and over, up to the 31st December, 1897; the rental of the same being \$17 and \$37 respectively, and the recording fees \$85 and \$185.

“Messrs. Armstrong, Sibbald, and L. Norris are the only Gold Commissioners who have sent in returns up to the present time.”

Mr. *Kellie* asked the Hon. the Premier the following questions :—

1. Were the petitioners who recommended the appointment of *John D. Sibbald* as Gold Commissioner for the *Revelstoke* Mining Division residents of the district or non-residents?
2. What are the names of the parties favouring the appointment?
3. Why were efficient Mining Recorders in the district ignored in making the appointment of a Gold Commissioner?
4. What salary was paid *John D. Sibbald* as Gold Commissioner for the month of January?
5. What salary did *J. D. Graham* receive per month, prior to his resignation as Gold Commissioner?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows :—

“1. I know of no petition.

“2 & 3. I decline to answer, on ground of public policy.

“4. \$139.

“5. \$120.”

Mr. *Graham* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following question :—

How many “unorganized districts” have been proclaimed in the Province, in accordance with the provisions of the “Game Protection Act, 1897”?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows :—

“No ‘unorganized districts’ have been proclaimed. The provisions of the Act are for the benefit of resident farmers, and will be put in force in any locality where it appears that the residents reasonably require the game for food and desire the issue of a Proclamation.”

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5:50 o'clock, P. M.

Wednesday, 16th February, 1898.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Canon *Beanlands*.

The following Petitions were presented :—

By Mr. *Hunter*, from *Leopold Hirsch* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Kootenay and North-West Railway Company.”

By Mr. *Kellie*, from *E. T. Galt* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Arrow-head and Kootenay Railway Company.”

By Major *Mutter*, from “The Cowichan Lumber Company, Limited,” for a Private Bill for power to construct tramway and erect dam in *Cowichan River*.

The following Petitions were received :—

From *Moses McGregor* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Alice Arm Railway Company."

From *H. Maitland-Kersey* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kitimat Railway Company," in substitution of the Petition presented 14th inst. *re* same railway, which was withdrawn.

Pursuant to Order, the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was resumed.

The debate was further adjourned until to-morrow.

On the motion of Mr. *Helmcken*, seconded by Mr. *Huff*, it was *Resolved*,—

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to cause to be laid before the House a copy of all correspondence which has passed between his Government and the Government of the Dominion of Canada with reference to the Resolution of this House passed on the 12th April, 1897, touching the question of the Indian potlatch.

On the motion of Mr. *Helmcken*, seconded by Mr. *Braden*, it was *Resolved*,—

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to cause to be laid before the House copies of all correspondence which has passed between his Government and the Government of the Dominion of Canada, with reference to the question of the removal of the Indians from the *Songhees Reserve*, since the return dated the 5th May, 1897, was presented to this House.

On the motion of Mr. *Helmcken*, seconded by Mr. *Braden*, it was *Resolved*,—

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to cause to be laid before the House a copy of the Order in Council, and all correspondence relating thereto, with reference to the grievances of the sealers since the return presented to this House on the 29th April, 1897.

On the motion of Mr. *Semlin*, seconded by Mr. *Williams*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of this House be granted for a Return of all correspondence between the Government, or any member thereof, and any tenderer for furnishing the Old Men's Home at *Kamloops*.

Mr. *Kellie* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions :—

1. Who authorised *Wm. White*, Q.C., to occupy a portion of the old Government Buildings in *Revelstoke*?
2. What instructions were issued (if any) authorising him to take possession, and to whom directed?
3. What was the date of any correspondence forwarded to any Government official authorising Mr. *White* to occupy the building as an office?
4. Have any instructions been given to any official to secure the ejection of *Wm. White*, Q.C., from occupying the building, and what were the instructions given?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows :—

"1. Mr. *White* was verbally told by the Premier and the Attorney-General, in the month of September last, that he would (upon paying fair rent) be allowed to occupy the office of the Gold Commissioner for a short time when the latter moved into the new offices at *Revelstoke*. The granting of the request was purely an accommodation until Mr. *White* could secure office accommodation, and on the understanding that the room was not required for Government purposes.

"2. No further instructions.

"3. None.

"4. No; but a few weeks ago, the room being then required for police purposes, the Superintendent of Provincial Police, in accordance with the arrangement, notified Mr. *White* to vacate."

Mr. *Helmcken* asked the Hon. the Provincial Secretary the following question :—

What is the present position of the question between the Dominion and Provincial Governments touching the removal of the Indians from the *Songhees Reserve*?

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* replied as follows :—

“Correspondence is going on between the two Governments, and it is hoped a satisfactory agreement will be arrived at.”

Mr. *Helmcken* asked the Hon. the Provincial Secretary the following question :—

What reply (if any) was received by the Government of the Province of British Columbia from the Government of the Dominion of Canada relative to the resolution of this House passed on the 12th April, 1897, touching the establishment of a Government Mint in the Province of British Columbia?

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* replied as follows :—

“An acknowledgment of the 28th of April, from the Secretary of State, of the receipt of the minute embodying the said resolution.”

Mr. *Kennedy* asked the Hon. the Minister of Education the following questions :—

1. When was *Campbell's Creek School* closed, and why?
2. When was the same school re-opened, and why?
3. How many teachers have been employed at this school since its first opening?
4. What were the reasons for dismissing such as were dismissed?

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* replied as follows :—

“1. April 20th, 1897; on account of low attendance of pupils.

“2. October 18th, 1897; on the representation that the average daily attendance required by the regulations would thereafter be maintained.

“3. Nine, including the present teacher.

“4. All resigned except two, who were compelled to retire from the school on account of very low attendance of pupils.”

Mr. *Semlin* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions :—

1. Were tenders advertised for for the construction of the addition to the Royal Inland Hospital (women's ward), and where?
2. Who were the tenderers, and what were the prices quoted?
3. To whom was the contract awarded, and what was the amount expended on said addition?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows :—

“1, 2 & 3. No; not by the Government. The appropriation of \$200 was a grant in aid. The money was not asked for and the vote has lapsed.”

Mr. *Semlin* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions :—

1. Were tenders advertised for for the furnishing of the Provincial Home at *Kamloops*?
2. What was the nature of the contract?
3. Names of all tenderers and prices quoted?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows :—

“1. Tenders were invited at *Kamloops* and *Victoria* in November, 1894.

“2. Supplying 65 *Lawson-Tait* bedsteads, 65 mattresses, and 65 feather pillows.”

“3. *Weiler Bros.*, \$1,195; *M. P. Gordon*, \$1,283.75.”

Mr. *Semlin* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions :—

1. Were tenders called for for the piles for the reconstruction of the *Thompson River Bridge*?
2. Who was awarded the contract, and at what price?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows :—

- “1. No.
- “2. J. Genelle; five cents per lineal foot.”

Mr. *Semlin* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following questions :—

- 1. Why was *J. R. Vicars* appointed Warden or Head Gaoler of *Kamloops Gaol*?
- 2. What were his qualifications?
- 3. Upon whose recommendation was he appointed?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows :—

- “1. Because he was well fitted for the position.
- “2. Honesty, sobriety, intelligence.
- “3. Amongst others, the Superintendent of Provincial Police.”

Mr. *Semlin* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions :—

- 1. What contracts for road work have been let in the *North Riding of Yale* since January 1st, 1896, to date?
- 2. To whom have these contracts (if any) been let, and at what prices?
- 3. Have tenders been called for in each instance, and how?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows :—

- “1. Contracts were let for grubbing on Salmon Arm Road and for painting Kamloops Bridge.
- “2. S. J. Rumball, \$294. Aukelell & Smith, \$180.
- “3. Tenders were invited by Mr. Stevenson, District Road Superintendent.”

Mr. *Semlin* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions :—

- 1. What was the cost of the new gaol at *Kamloops*?
- 2. What was the cost of the alterations, what were the alterations, and why were they made?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows :—

- “1. \$13,773.
- “2. Some small alterations in the iron work of the cell doors were ordered by Superintendent Hussey, the cost of which has not yet been brought to account, but will be trifling. The foundation of one of the chimneys was considered defective, and it has been remedied by the contractor at his own cost. Cement floors in the wards are also defective, and will be improved when danger from frost is over.”

Mr. *Semlin* asked the Hon. the Provincial Secretary the following question :—

Were tenders asked for for Sessional Binding for 1897?

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* replied as follows :—

“No.”

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5:20 o'clock, P. M.

Thursday, 17th February, 1898.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Canon *Beanlands*.

The following Petitions were presented:—

By Mr. *Rogers*, from *Chas. W. D. Clifford*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Skeena River and Eastern Railway Company."

By Mr. *Williams*, from the *City of Vancouver*, for a Private Bill to amend their Corporate Act.

By Mr. *Hunter*, from *John Cobledick*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The British Columbian Great Gold Gravels Dredge Mining Corporation."

By Mr. *Hunter*, from *John Cobledick*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The British Columbia Metalliferous Mines, Iron, Steel, Tin-plate and Metal Company."

By Mr. *Williams*, from *Charles Ross* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Skeena River Railway, Colonization and Exploration Company."

By Mr. *Kellie*, from *Joseph D. Graham* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Downie Creek Railway Company."

The following Petitions were received:—

From *Leopold Hirsch* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kootenay and North-West Railway Company."

From *E. T. Galt* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Arrowhead and Kootenay Railway Company."

From "The Cowichan Lumber Company, Limited," for a Private Bill for power to construct tramway and erect dam in *Cowichan River*.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* presented the Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages of the Province.

Mr. Speaker gave the following ruling:—

Objection having been made by the Chair to the discussion by the Hon. Second Member for Vancouver (Mr. Macpherson) of a matter which is the subject of judicial action, I have been asked by the Hon. Third Member for Vancouver (Mr. Cotton) to furnish a written decision in support of my ruling.

May, tenth edition, page 264, says:—"A matter whilst under adjudication by a court of law should not be brought before the House, by a motion or otherwise."

Same authority, page 308: "A member, while speaking to a question, may not * * * refer to matters pending a judicial decision."

Same authority, page 319: "Matters awaiting the adjudication of a court of law should not be brought forward in debate." This rule was observed by Sir R. Peel and Lord J. Russell, both by the wording of the Speech from the Throne and by their procedure in the House, regarding Mr. O'Connell's case, and has been maintained by rulings from the Chair.

I think that the object of the practice as laid down in *May* is to prevent the undue influencing of the public mind for or against the parties to an action pending litigation. It is, however, open to any Hon. Member to move, on notice, a substantive resolution expressive, in general terms, of the opinion of the House as to the advisability of Ministers of the Crown connecting their names with public companies. This resolution may be discussed and disposed of without referring to the matter awaiting judicial action, or prejudicing the public mind in either direction.

D. W. HIGGINS.

Pursuant to Order, the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was resumed.

Mr. *Macpherson* moved—To add after the word “thoughtfulness,” on the fifth line, the words following:—

“and this House is of the opinion that Ministers of the Crown should not lend the assistance of their official titles to the floating of any company, and regrets that the Hon. the Premier and Finance Minister and the President of the Executive Council allowed their names, in their said official capacity, to be placed on the directorate of ‘The Dawson City (Klondike) and Dominion Trading Corporation, Limited,’ and that it is a still greater source of regret that they did not sever their connection with said company, as such directors, as soon as they ascertained the use which was being made of their official titles by the promoters of that Company.”

The motion was ruled out of order.

Mr. *Cotton* then moved the adjournment of the House, for the purpose of discussing a distinct Resolution respecting the conduct of Ministers of the Government in allowing their names, in their official capacities, to be used in the prospectuses of public companies.

Motion withdrawn.

The debate was further adjourned until to-morrow.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

Mr. *Hunter* presented the First Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
17th February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

That the Standing Orders in connection with the under-mentioned Petitions have been complied with:—

No. 4—The Petition of the Mountain Tramway and Electric Company.

No. 19—The Petition of the Kitimat Railway Company, Limited.

JOSEPH HUNTER,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

On the motion of Mr. *Helmcken*, Private Bill (No. 4) intituled “An Act to Incorporate the Mountain Tramway and Electric Company,” was introduced and read a first time.

Referred to the Private Bills Committee.

On the motion of Mr. *Helmcken*, Private Bill (No. 5) intituled “An Act to Incorporate the Kitimat Railway Company, Limited,” was introduced and read a first time.

Referred to the Railway Committee.

The Hon. the Attorney-General presented a return under section 4 of the “Small Debts Act Amendment Act, 1896.”

And then the House adjourned at 5:45 o'clock, P. M.

Friday, 18th February, 1898.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Canon *Beanlands*.

The following Petitions were presented:—

By Mr. *Booth*, from *Thos. Earle* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The East Kootenay Valley Railway Company."

By Mr. *Stoddart*, from *Edmund Elkins* and others, settlers of *Chilcotin*, asking police protection in *Tatla*, *Chilco* and *Puntzee Districts*.

By Mr. *Huff*, from "The Canadian Pacific Navigation Company, Limited," for a Private Bill extending their corporate powers.

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *H. Maitland-Kersey* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Omineca Railway Company," in substitution of the Petition presented on the 15th inst. *re* same Railway Company, which was withdrawn.

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper* and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incorporate "The Argenta-Dawson-Duncan Railway Company."

By Mr. *Sword*, from *H. Hirschel Cohen*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Portland and Stikine Railway Company."

The following Petitions were received:—

From *Chas. W. D. Clifford*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Skeena River and Eastern Railway Company."

From the *City of Vancouver*, for a Private Bill to amend their Corporate Act.

From *John Cobledick*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The British Columbia Great Gold Gravels Dredge Mining Corporation."

From *John Cobledick*, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The British Columbia Metalliferous Mines, Iron, Steel, Tin-plate and Metal Company."

From *Charles Ross* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Skeena River Railway, Colonization and Exploration Company."

From *Joseph D. Graham* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Downie Creek Railway Company."

Pursuant to Order, the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was resumed.

The debate was further adjourned until Monday next.

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented Returns to Addresses for—

A copy of all correspondence which has passed between this Government and the Government of the Dominion of Canada with reference to the Resolution of this House passed on the 12th April, 1897, touching the question of the Indian potlatch.

A copy of the Order in Council, and all correspondence relating thereto, with reference to the grievances of the sealers, since the Return presented to this House on the 29th April, 1897.

Mr. *Hunter* presented the Second Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
18th February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

That the Standing Orders in connection with the under-mentioned Petitions have been complied with :

No. 8.—The Petition of the Nanaimo Electric Light, Power and Heat Company, Limited.

No. 9.—The Petition of the Alice Arm Railway Company.

JOSEPH HUNTER,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

Mr. *Helmecken* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following question:—

Is it the intention of the Government to introduce at the present Session legislation to cover the difficulty arising out of the recent decision of the Full Court in the case of *Regina v. Little*?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows:—

“Notice of a Bill for that purpose has been introduced.”

Mr. *Sword* asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following questions:—

Were Messrs. *Woolston & Beeton* authorised to promise to intending investors in the Loan of 1895 that no financial aid or guarantee of interest or principal would be given to the *British Pacific* or other transcontinental railway scheme?

For how long was such promise to be in force?

Did such promise provide that it should apply to any part of the railway?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows:—

“I do not remember that Messrs. *Woolston & Beeton* were authorised, either verbally or in writing, to promise to intending investors in the Loan of 1895 that no financial aid or guarantee of interest or principal would be given to the *British Pacific* or other transcontinental railway scheme.”

Mr. *Williams* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:—

1. Have any lands been reserved under sub-section (c) of section 1 of the “*Cassiar Central Railway Aid Act, 1897*”; and if so, date of reservation, location, and extent of each?

2. Have any lands been reserved by the Government for said Railway Company, under terms of said Act?

3. Have any blocks been selected by the said Railway Company? If so, dates of selection and number and extent of blocks.

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows:—

“1. No.

“2. No.

“3. No.”

Mr. *Helmecken* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following question:—

Was any Order in Council passed pursuant to 59 Vict., chap. 13, sec. 3, touching the salary to be repaid to Magistrates under the “*Small Debts Act, 1895*,” in lieu of fees?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows:—

“The Return presented yesterday answers this question.”

Mr. *Williams* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:—

Has “The Dawson City (Klondike) and Dominion Trading Corporation, Limited,” an option for purchase, or has it purchased, or agreed to purchase, any lands from the Government? If so, when and what lands?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows:—

“No.”

Mr. *Kidd* asked the Hon. the Minister of Finance the following question:—

What amount of cash stood to the credit of the Government of this Province, on its bank accounts and in the Treasury, on the 10th inst.?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows:—

“It is not in the public interest to reply to this question now; the accounts will all be before the Public Accounts Committee in a few days.”

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock on Monday next.

And then the House adjourned at 5:40 o'clock, p. m.

Monday, 21st February, 1898.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. *J. F. Betts*.

The following Petitions were presented:—

By Mr. *Graham*, from *Chas. Hay* and others, residents of *Kettle River* and *Boundary Creek*, urging support of railway charters for railroads through said districts.

By Mr. *Booth*, from *Wm. McKenzie* and others, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Yukon Railway and Navigation Company.”

The following Petitions were received:—

From *Thos. Earle* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The East Kootenay Valley Railway Company.”

From *Edmund Elkins* and others, settlers of *Chilcotin*, asking police protection in *Tatla*, *Chilco* and *Puntzee Districts*.

From “The Canadian Pacific Navigation Company, Limited,” for a Private Bill extending their corporate powers.

From *H. Maitland-Kersey* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Omineca Railway Company,” in substitution of the Petition presented on the 15th inst. *re* same Railway Company, which was withdrawn.

From Sir *Charles Hibbert Tupper* and others, for leave to introduce a Private Bill to incorporate “The Argenta-Dawson-Duncan Railway Company.”

From *H. Hirschel Cohen*, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Portland and Stikine Railway Company.”

Mr. *Smith* presented the Third Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
19th February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

That they have considered Petition No. 6, of the Arrowhead and Kootenay Railway Company, and find that the Standing Rules have not been complied with, as the notice published does not cover the alternative route asked for *via* Duncan River; but as notice has been given of the Company's intention to apply to the Dominion Parliament for a Dominion charter, and in this notice such alternative route is provided for, your Committee is of the opinion that the Standing Rules should be suspended, so as to admit of the Bill being introduced; and your Committee is further of the opinion that, should the House think fit to suspend the Rules to allow a Bill to be introduced in accordance with the Petition, it should be on the term of double fees being paid, and your Committee recommend the same accordingly.

Your Committee have also considered Petition No 3, the Petition of the North Star and Arrow Lake Railway Company, and find it complies with the Standing Orders.

A. W. SMITH,
Acting Chairman.

The Report was received.

Mr. *Hunter* presented the Fourth Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
21st February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

That the Standing Orders in connection with the under-mentioned Petitions have been complied with:

No. 7—The Petition of Kootenay and North-West Railway Company.

No. 15—The Petition of the South-East Kootenay Railway Company.

JOSEPH HUNTER,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

Ordered, That Mr. *Hunter* be appointed a member of the Public Accounts Committee until the return of Mr. *Rithet*.

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* presented the Report of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for the year ending 31st December, 1897.

Pursuant to Order, the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was resumed.

The debate was further adjourned until to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* presented a Return of correspondence between the Government, or any member thereof, and any tenderer for furnishing the Old Men's Home at *Kamloops*.

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented a Return of correspondence with His Excellency the Governor-General in regard to the "Alien Labour Bill" of last Session, assent to which was reserved, pending His Excellency's consideration of the same.

Mr. *Hume* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:—

1. What was the cost of the new gaol at *Nelson*, B. C.?
2. The name of each contractor tendering, and amount?
3. How many officials in connection therewith; their different positions; names and salary of each official?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows:—

“1. About \$15,000.

“2. A. Lemay & Co., \$12,888; R. Dinsdale, \$13,543; H. J. Williams, \$13,995; McDonald & Carrie, \$14,000; Sturgeon, Laurin & Lapoint, \$14,860; Lapoint & Brown, \$16,850; E. B. McNairn, \$18,131.

“3. A. M. Muir, architect, plans and specifications, 2%; A. E. Hodgins, architect, construction, 5%; Edward Bragg, clerk of works, \$5 per day; H. Hoepfner, clerk of works, \$4 per day.”

Mr. *Forster* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following questions:—

Has the attention of the Hon. Attorney-General been drawn to an advertisement by the *Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company* appearing in certain British Columbia papers, of a notice warning free miners off the lands of that company, and threatening to deal with such free miners as trespassers? If so, has he taken any action in respect of such notice?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows:—

“I have seen the advertisement to which the Honourable Member no doubt refers, but the effect of which he rather incorrectly summarizes. No action has been taken in respect of such notice, as I am unable to apprehend what action could be taken. Should, however, free miners be at any time illegally hindered in their undoubted right to mine for the precious metals in the Island Railway Belt, the Government will assert and protect their rights vigorously.”

Mr. *Kennedy* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following questions:—

1. Why has section 9 of the “Municipal Clauses Act Amendment Act, 1897” (commonly known as the “curfew law”), been declared unworkable?

2. Is it the intention of the Government to have the said section amended so as to be operative?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows:—

“1. I am not aware that the section in question has been authoritatively declared unworkable, though such is my opinion. The clause was introduced in Committee during the closing hours of last Session by the Honourable Member who asks the question, and as drafted, introduced, and carried, it was incomplete, in that it does not define under what age children's presence on the streets may be regulated.

“2. The Government will remedy the omission of the Honourable Member.”

Mr. *Hume* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following questions:—

Is it the intention of the Government to establish a Land Registry Office in *Kootenay*? If so, at what place? If not, why not?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows:—

“1. Yes.

“2. The matter is under consideration of the Government.”

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5:45 o'clock, P. M.

Tuesday, 22nd February, 1898.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. *J. F. Betts*.

The following Petitions were received:—

From *Chas. Hay* and others, residents of *Kettle River* and *Boundary Creek*, urging support of railway charters for railroads through said districts.

From *Wm. McKenzie* and others, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Yukon Railway and Navigation Company."

Pursuant to Order, the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was resumed.

Resolution proposed and agreed to.

Clauses one and two read a second time and agreed to.

Upon clause three being read—

Mr. *Cotton* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Graham*,—

That section 3 be amended by adding thereto the following words:—

"and we trust that measures will be laid before us providing for the abolition of the double taxation involved in the present system of taxing mortgages, and also for the relief of labourers in metalliferous mines from the necessity of taking out, as such, free miner's certificates."

Mr. Speaker ruled the motion out of order.

Mr. *Cotton* appealed from the Chair.

The Chair was sustained on the following division:—

YEAS:

Messieurs

<i>Sword,</i>	<i>Kellie,</i>	<i>Rithet,</i>	<i>Eberts,</i>
<i>Forster,</i>	<i>Mutter,</i>	<i>Adams,</i>	<i>Bryden,</i>
<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Helmcken,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Rogers,</i>
<i>Huff,</i>	<i>Baker,</i>	<i>Stoddart,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>
<i>Williams,</i>	<i>Turner,</i>	<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Braden,</i>
<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>McGregor—24.</i>

NAYS:

Messieurs

<i>Kennedy,</i>	<i>Vedder,</i>	<i>Cotton,</i>	<i>Graham—6.</i>
<i>Kidd,</i>	<i>Semlin,</i>		

The debate was adjourned until to-morrow.

On the motion of Mr. *Kennedy*, seconded by Mr. *Sword*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for all correspondence between the Department of Education and any other party or parties, in connection with the re-opening of *Campbell's Creek School*.

On the motion of Mr. *Walkem*, seconded by Mr. *Stoddart*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of this House be granted for a Return of copies of all correspondence between the Government and any person whatsoever, in connection with the employment of Chinese or Japanese labour below ground in the metallurgical mines of this Province.

On the motion of Mr. *Smith*, seconded by Mr. *Stoddart*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of this House be granted for a Return showing the total amount of revenue collected each year in each Electoral District of the Province, from 1st July, 1894, to 31st December, 1897, and the total expenditure in each Electoral District during the same period, under the following heads, viz. :—

1. Salaries of officers.
2. Roads, trails, bridges, ferries, buildings and repairs of all kinds, except school buildings.
3. Education, salaries, buildings, &c.
4. Hospitals and charities.
5. Total amount for which the Government has become responsible for the construction of railroads and dyking works, and amount of the annual payments on such indebtedness.
6. The amount remaining unpaid of money advanced by the Government to assist farmers and others on account of damage from floods, drought, &c.

On the motion of Mr. *Semlin*, seconded by Mr. *Williams*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of this House be granted for copies of all correspondence between the Government, or any member thereof, and any other person, leading up to the investigation of certain charges against Constable *Hunter* during the summer of 1897, and the evidence given at such investigation.

On the motion of the Hon. Colonel *Baker*, Bill (No. 6) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Coal Mines Regulation Act,'" was introduced and read a first time.

To be read a second time on Thursday next.

Mr. *Hunter* presented the Fifth Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
22nd February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows :—

That the Standing Orders in connection with the under-mentioned Petitions have been complied with :

No. 17—Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1886.

No. 14—B. C. Metalliferous Mines, Iron, Steel, Tin-plate and Metal Company.

No. 10—With regard to Petition No. 10, the Petition of the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company, Limited, your Committee beg leave to report that the Petition exceeds the notice in so far as it applies for power to engage in the business of a trading company; but your Committee, now having called the attention of the House to this fact, recommend that permission be given to enable the Bill to be introduced.

JOSEPH HUNTER,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

The following Private Bills were introduced, read a first time, and referred to the Railway Committee :—

By Mr. *Huff*—Bill (No. 7) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Alice Arm Railway."

By Mr. *Hume*—Bill (No. 8) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the South-East Kootenay Railway Company."

By Mr. *Hunter*—Bill (No. 9) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Kootenay and North West Railway Company."

The following Private Bills were introduced, read a first time, and referred to the Private Bills Committee :—

By Mr. *Williams*—Bill (No. 10) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Vancouver Incorporation Act, 1886,' and amendments thereto."

By Mr. *Hunter*—Bill (No. 11) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the British Columbia Metalliferous Mines, Iron, Steel, Tinplate and Metal Company."

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5:55 o'clock, P. M.

Wednesday, 23rd February, 1898.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. *A. B. Winchester*.

Pursuant to Order, the adjourned debate on the Address in reply to the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was resumed.

Mr. *Kellie* moved, seconded by Mr. *Hume*, to strike out clause 3.

Negatived on the following division:—

YEAS :

Messieurs

<i>Hume,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Vedder,</i>	<i>Kennedy,</i>
<i>Forster,</i>	<i>Kidd,</i>	<i>Graham,</i>	<i>Kellie—8.</i>

NAYS :

Messieurs

<i>Huff,</i>	<i>Baker,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Bryden,</i>
<i>Williams,</i>	<i>Turner,</i>	<i>Stoddart,</i>	<i>Rogers,</i>
<i>Semlin,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>	<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>
<i>Cotton,</i>	<i>Rithet,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>Braden,</i>
<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Adams,</i>	<i>Eberts,</i>	<i>McGregor—21.</i>
<i>Mutter,</i>			

Clause read a second time and agreed to.

Clauses 4, 5, 6 and 7 read a second time and agreed to.

Upon clause 8 being read—

Mr. *Semlin* moved, seconded by Mr. *Williams*, to amend the clause by adding at the end thereof the following:—

“and we trust that such measure will rectify existing inequalities in the representation, without increasing the present number of members, and will provide for equal representation to constituencies similarly situated.”

Negatived on the following division:—

YEAS :

Messieurs

<i>Sword,</i>	<i>Forster,</i>	<i>Vedder,</i>	<i>Cotton,</i>
<i>Kennedy,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Williams,</i>	<i>Graham,</i>
<i>Hume,</i>	<i>Kidd,</i>	<i>Semlin,</i>	<i>Kellie—12.</i>

NAYS :

Messieurs

<i>Huff,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>	<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Rogers,</i>
<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Rithet,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>
<i>Helmcken,</i>	<i>Adams,</i>	<i>Eberts,</i>	<i>Braden,</i>
<i>Baker,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Bryden,</i>	<i>McGregor—18.</i>
<i>Turner,</i>	<i>Stoddart,</i>		

Clause read a second time and agreed to.

Clauses 9, 10 and 11 read a second time and agreed to.

Upon clause 12 being read—

Mr. *Kennedy* moved, seconded by Mr. *Kidd*, to amend the clause by adding the words:—

“and we trust that for the benefit of the Province and all concerned in the lumber business, some measure providing for log-scaling by the Government will be laid before us.”

Negatived on the following division :—

YEAS :

Messieurs

<i>Sword,</i>	<i>Forster,</i>	<i>Vedder,</i>	<i>Cotton,</i>
<i>Kennedy,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Williams,</i>	<i>Graham,</i>
<i>Hume,</i>	<i>Kidd,</i>	<i>Semin,</i>	<i>Kellie—12.</i>

NAYS :

Messieurs

<i>Huff,</i>	<i>Turner,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Eberts,</i>
<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>	<i>Stoddart,</i>	<i>Bryden,</i>
<i>Mutter,</i>	<i>Rithet,</i>	<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>
<i>Baker,</i>	<i>Adams,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>McGregor—16.</i>

Clause read a second time and agreed to.

Clauses 13, 14 and 15 read a second time and agreed to.

Read a third time, taken as read, and agreed to.

On the motion of the Honourable the Premier, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, it was *Resolved*,—

That the Resolution to present an Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, thanking His Honour for his gracious Speech, be referred to a Select Committee, composed as follows:—

The Honourable the President of the Council, the Honourable the Attorney-General, the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, the Honourable the Provincial Secretary, the Honourable the Minister of Finance, and Messrs. *Mutter* and *Adams*.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance, from the Select Committee, reported an Address, which read as follows:—

To the Honourable THOMAS R. McINNES, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia :

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in Parliament assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for your gracious speech at the opening of the Fourth Session of the Seventh Parliament, and we trust that we are fully alive to the responsibilities of our positions, and we will endeavour to consider the interests of the people with wisdom and thoughtfulness.

We have much pleasure in meeting you in this the first year of your office as Lieutenant-Governor, and to accept your congratulations on the completion of these stately Government Buildings, so worthy of the Province, so admirably adapted for the purposes for which they were designed, and in which we are now assembled for the first time.

We are gratified to learn that the revenue of the country is expanding to such dimensions as to indicate the rapid development of our undoubted resources in minerals and other natural products.

We are happy to learn that the vast discoveries of gold in the Yukon region will give a great stimulus to commercial enterprise throughout the Province, and, in view of the urgent necessity of securing an all-Canadian route to the Yukon, we will carefully consider any measure laid before us for furthering that object as expeditiously as possible.

We are pleased to be advised that the widespread discoveries of mineral wealth in the Province indicate the importance of affording increased transportation facilities for their development, and will give our careful consideration to certain measures which will be introduced tending to that desirable end.

We have much pleasure in being informed that the efforts made on former occasions to assist the Crow's Nest Railway have—in conjunction with aid from the Dominion Government—resulted in the active construction of that railway, and that there is every prospect of its completion as far as Nelson during the present year. By this means the extensive coal fields in the Crow's Nest Pass will be made available, and the importance to the mining industry of a good and cheap fuel cannot be exaggerated.

We are happy to be informed that negotiations are in progress for insuring the early construction of the Victoria, Vancouver and Eastern Railway, which will open up the rich mining camps and agricultural lands along the route.

We will earnestly deliberate upon any measure introduced having for its object redistribution in connection with the Electoral Districts.

It is satisfactory to learn that the abundant harvest of last year has relieved the depression which formerly existed in our agricultural industry.

We are glad to hear that in view of the adaptability of our Province for Dairy Farming, steps will be taken for promoting its development.

It affords satisfaction to receive the information that our Fisheries have maintained their high reputation, and offer a wide range for further expansion.

It is pleasant to hear that the Timber industry has shown marked improvement during the past year.

We learn with pleasure that the revision of the Statutes has been completed, and that legislation will be introduced to give effect to the work of the Commissioners.

We will carefully consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing year, which will shortly be laid before us.

We thank Your Honour for your expression of confidence that our labours will be directed to the honour and advantage of the Province and to the proper development of its resources, and we humbly trust that Divine Providence will guide and assist our efforts.

On the motion of the Honourable the Premier, seconded by the Honourable the Provincial Secretary, it was *Resolved*,—

That the Address in reply to the Speech be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor by such members as are of the Executive Council.

Mr. *Cotton* moved, seconded by Mr. *Semlin*,—

That in the opinion of this House the double taxation involved in the present system of taxing mortgages is an injustice.

Major *Mutter* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Helmcken*,—

To amend the Resolution by striking out all the words after "House" and inserting in place thereof the following:—

"the personal property tax on moneys included in mortgages and taxed to the mortgagee is not double taxation."

A debate arose, which was adjourned until to-morrow.

The Crown having signified its consent through the Premier—

On the motion of Mr. *Helmcken*, seconded by Mr. *Rithet*, it was *Resolved*,—

Whereas a World's Fair is to be held in *Paris*, France, in the year 1900:

And whereas it would be in the best interest of the Province of British Columbia if as complete a collection as possible of the products and resources of the Province could be procured to be forwarded in due time to such Fair:

Be it therefore Resolved, That this House would respectfully urge upon the Government of the Province of British Columbia to take into early consideration the desirability of the Province being properly represented in all branches of its varied resources at the said Fair.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5:45 o'clock, P. M.

Thursday, 24th February, 1898.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. *A. B. Winchester*.

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented a Return of all correspondence between the Department of Education and any other party or parties, in connection with the re-opening of *Campbell Creek School*.

Mr. *Hunter* presented the Sixth Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
24th February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

That the Standing Orders in connection with the under-mentioned Petitions have been complied with:—

No. 2—The Petition of the East Kootenay Valley Railway Company.

No. 16—The Petition of the Skeena River and Eastern Railway Company.

No. 13—The Petition of the British Columbian Great Gold Gravels Dredge Mining Corporation.

JOSEPH HUNTER,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

Mr. *Hunter* presented the Seventh Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
24th February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

The preamble proved of Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Mountain Tramway and Electric Company," and submit the same herewith with amendments.

JOSEPH HUNTER,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

Mr. *Hunter* presented the First Report from the Public Accounts Committee, as follows:

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
23rd February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts beg leave to report as follows:—

That they have the honour to submit the following statements:

1. Statement of accounts of the Province of British Columbia with the various banks as at 10th February, inst., shewing cash on hand at that date, with explanatory note attached.

2. Accounts of Shuswap and Okanagan Railway, and of Nakusp and Slocan Railway, as at 31st December, 1897.

3. Accounts of Parliament Buildings to 31st January, 1898, shewing total payments on construction account to be \$828,111.79; total payments on furniture, \$34,043.90. Total payments, \$862,155.69.

NOTE 1.—The payments to 31st December, 1897, on account of the Nakusp and Slocan Railway amount to \$123,273.78; the receipts amount to \$168,101.99.

NOTE 2.—The payments to 31st December, 1897, on behalf of the Shuswap and Okanagan Railway amount to \$303,601.26; the receipts, \$221,713.93.

All of which are respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH HUNTER,
Acting Chairman.

The Report was received.

RETURN SHEWING BALANCES OF BANK ACCOUNT, CASH ON HAND AT TREASURY AND IN THE HANDS OF AGENTS, 10TH FEBRUARY, 1898.

Amount due Bank of B. C. \$199,254 05
Cash on hand at Treasury and in hands of Agents 37,595 00

NOTE.—The cause of the temporary overdraft at the bank, as shewn above, may be accounted for from the fact of the actual expenditure from 1st July to date being \$1,078,261, as against the sum voted in Estimates for whole year, viz.: \$1,592,033.10. This large proportion of the actual expenditure for the period, in comparison with the amount voted for the year, is the result of carrying out the usual practice of expending the appropriations on all branches of public works during the first six months of the fiscal year; in support of this, a statement of actual expenditure to date and the estimated expenditure for the year is herewith appended. On the other hand, it will be seen that the greater portion of the revenue has yet to come in, from the fact of the assessed taxes, estimated at \$287,000, not being payable until the latter half of the fiscal year, and have therefore yet to be received in addition to the due proportion of all other revenue as estimated.

EXPENDITURE TO 31ST JANUARY, 1898.

	Expenditure to 31st January, 1898.	Estimated for year.
Public Debt	\$129,946 87	\$281,084 60
Civil Government (Salaries)	72,521 98	121,922 00
Administration of Justice (Salaries)	78,629 60	157,674 00
Legislation	2,806 00	31,115 00
Public Institutions	54,451 92	92,840 00
Hospitals and Charities	24,282 75	48,450 00
Administration of Justice (other than Salaries)	44,748 18	75,700 00
Education	142,034 51	243,911 00
Transport	7,445 11	13,500 00
Rent	24 25	48 50
Revenue Service	10,377 69	15,000 00
Works and Buildings	97,631 29	93,800 00
Government House	972 44	3,000 00
Roads, Streets and Bridges	266,101 74	299,850 00
Surveys	10,939 79	15,000 00
Miscellaneous	89,347 20	99,138 00
Expenditure as brought to account at Treasury	1,032,261 32	\$1,592,033 10
Expenditure by Agents since 1st Jan., not yet brought to account.	46,000 00	
	\$1,078,261 32	

STATEMENT SHEWING PAYMENTS MADE ON ACCOUNT OF CONSTRUCTION AND FURNITURE OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS UP TO 31ST JANUARY, 1898.

Total payments on Construction account \$828,111 79
Total payments on Furniture account 34,043 90
\$862,155 69

Mr. *Sword* moved, seconded by Mr. *Kennedy*,—

That this House is of opinion that Ministers of the Crown should not lend the assistance of their official titles to the floating of any company, and regrets that the Hon. the Premier and Finance Minister and the Hon. President of the Council allowed their names, in their said official capacity, to be placed on the directorate of "The Dawson City (Klondike) and Dominion Trading Corporation, Limited," and that it is a still greater source of regret that they did not sever their connection with said company, as such directors, as soon as they ascertained the use which was being made of their official titles by the promoters of that company.

Mr. Speaker ruled the motion out of order.

Mr. *Sword* appealed from the ruling of the Chair.

Question proposed "Shall the Chair be sustained?"

The House divided as follows:—

YEAS :

Messieurs

<i>Huff,</i>	<i>Turner,</i>	<i>Stoddart,</i>	<i>Rogers,</i>
<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>	<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>
<i>Mutter,</i>	<i>Riethet,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>Braden,</i>
<i>Helmcken,</i>	<i>Adams,</i>	<i>Eberts,</i>	<i>McGregor—19.</i>
<i>Baker,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Bryden,</i>	

NAYS :

Messieurs

<i>Sword,</i>	<i>Forster,</i>	<i>Vedder,</i>	<i>Cotton,</i>
<i>Kennedy,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Williams,</i>	<i>Graham,</i>
<i>Hume,</i>	<i>Kidd,</i>	<i>Semlin,</i>	<i>Kellie—12.</i>

So the Chair was sustained.

Mr. *Kennedy* moved, seconded by Mr. *Hume*,—

That this House is of the opinion that none of the Ministers of the Crown should at any time lend the weight of their official titles to the floating of any scheme for the benefit of any company.

Mr. *Booth* moved in amendment—That the Resolution be read this day six months.

The House divided, and the amendment was carried on the following division:—

YEAS :

Messieurs

<i>Huff,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>	<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Rogers,</i>
<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Riethet,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>
<i>Mutter,</i>	<i>Adams,</i>	<i>Eberts,</i>	<i>Braden,</i>
<i>Baker,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Bryden,</i>	<i>McGregor—18.</i>
<i>Turner,</i>	<i>Stoddart,</i>		

NAYS :

Messieurs

<i>Sword,</i>	<i>Forster,</i>	<i>Vedder,</i>	<i>Cotton,</i>
<i>Kennedy,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Williams,</i>	<i>Graham—11.</i>
<i>Hume,</i>	<i>Kidd,</i>	<i>Semlin,</i>	

On the motion of Mr. *Vedder*, seconded by Mr. *Kidd*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of all papers and correspondence between the Attorney-General's Office and any person regarding the death of *Thomas Thompson*, and the inquest on the body of the same.

Mr. *Williams* asked the Hon. the Attorney-General the following questions:—

Has the question of the ownership of lots in old *Granville* Townsite, as between the Dominion and the Province, been settled? If not, what steps have been taken by this Government to that end?

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* replied as follows:—

“No question of ownership of the above lots has arisen between the two Governments.”

On the motion of Mr. *Semlin*, seconded by Mr. *Williams*, it was *Resolved*,—

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, asking His Honour to cause to be sent down to this House copies of Orders in Council and all correspondence between His Honour's Government and the Government of the Dominion, or between any member of the Ministry and any other person, in reference to the preservation of the *Town of Revelstoke* from destruction by the waters of the *Columbia River*.

Mr. *Helmcken* asked the Hon. the Premier the following questions:—

Has any communication been forwarded by the Provincial Government to the Dominion Government, requesting the Dominion Government to transfer to the Province the interest of Her Majesty in the right of Canada in the foreshore and bed of every or any stream, river, lake, harbour, bay, open sea, or other territorial waters of Canada, or in any portion or parcels thereof within the limits of this Province, pursuant to 54-55 Vict., ch. 7 (Dom. Stats., 1891)?

If yea, what is the reply (if any) of the Dominion Government?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows:—

“No communication has been forwarded on the subject.”

Mr. *Vedder* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:—

1. Has the Government purchased the dredge now at work on the *Matsqui Prairie* dyking scheme, or has it been rented?
2. If purchased, of whom was it purchased, and what was the price?
3. If rented, what is the rental and conditions, and how long has it been on pay?
4. Who paid the cost of repairing the dredge?
5. How long has it been in actual use?
6. What salary is paid to Mr. *Tyler*, and how is it apportioned?
7. What is the total amount expended on the *Matsqui* dyking scheme since the Government took over the work, up to the 1st of February, 1898?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows:—

“1 & 2. It has been rented.

“3. \$250 per month. Maintenance of insurance and returning plant in as good order as taken over. Since 26th January last.

“4. The Government.

“5. From 26th January to date.

“6. \$200 per month. Apportioned to each Dyking District according to time occupied.

“7. \$12,477.85.”

Mr. *Macpherson* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:—

1. Did *G. Cassidy & Co.* receive a commission of 10% on sale of lumber seized by Government at *Leamy & Kyle's, Vancouver*?
2. What was the money value of sales so made by *G. Cassidy & Co.*, as per *G. Cassidy & Co's.* statement returned to the Government?
3. What amount did the Government receive for lumber so sold by *George Cassidy & Co.*?
4. Did *G. Cassidy & Co.* refuse to further continue the sale of lumber at a commission of 10%? If so, give date and amount of lumber still unsold at that date.

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows:—

“1. Yes.

“2. Statements were rendered by *Cassidy & Co.* to the Assignee of the estate of *Leamy & Kyle*, not to the Government.

“3. \$2,347.22.

“4. Yes; but the date on which they so refused, and the amount of lumber then unsold, is not known to the Government.”

Mr. *Graham* asked the Hon. the Provincial Secretary the following questions :—

Has the position of the boundary line between *North* and *East Yale*, near *Grand Prairie*, been definitely decided upon?

If so, at what point between *Grand Prairie* and *Round Lake* does the line pass?

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* replied as follows :—

“As the Honourable Member is aware the boundary line between the North and East Ridings of Yale Electoral District is determined by the ‘Legislative Electorates and Elections Act, 1894,’ but I have no reason to suppose that this line has been surveyed.”

On the motion of Mr. *Williams*, seconded by Mr. *Semlin*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of the names of all persons at present employed in the different Departments of the Government at Victoria, and in the care of the Parliament Buildings? When employed and rate of wages?

Mr. *Kidd* asked the Hon. the Premier the following question :—

Does your Government intend to take steps to induce the Dominion Government to undertake or to assist in taking care of the Chinese suffering from leprosy or other incurable diseases imported by them?

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* replied as follows :—

“Steps have already be taken to induce the Dominion Government to undertake or assist in this matter.”

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* presented a Return of the names of all persons at present employed in the different Departments of the Government at Victoria, and in the care of the Parliament Buildings, when employed, and rate of wages.

Mr. *Helmcken* moved that Bill (No. 3) intituled “An Act relating to the employment of Chinese or Japanese persons on Works carried on under Franchises granted by Private Acts,” be read a second time now.

A debate arose, which was adjourned until to-morrow.

The adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. *Cotton*, as follows :—

“That in the opinion of this House the double taxation involved in the present system of taxing mortgages is an injustice.”

And the amendment thereto moved by Major *Mutter*, as follows :—

“To amend the Resolution by striking out all the words after ‘House’ and inserting in place thereof the following :—

“‘the personal property tax on moneys included in mortgages and taxed to the mortgagee is not double taxation’” —

was resumed.

Mr. Speaker *Higgins* gave the following ruling :—

A doubt having been expressed as to the admissibility of the amendment, I have been asked to rule thereon.

May, Tenth Edition, page 270—

“3. The general practice in regard to amendments is explained on page 275; but here such amendments only will be mentioned as are intended to evade an expression of opinion upon the main question, by entirely altering its meaning and object. This is effected by moving the omission of all the words of the question after the word ‘that’ at the beginning, and by the substitution of other words of a different import. If this amendment be agreed to by the House, it is clear that no opinion is expressed directly upon the main question, because it is determined that the original words ‘shall not stand part of the question’; and the sense of the House is afterwards taken directly upon the substituted words, or practically a new question. There are many precedents of this mode of dealing with a question; but the best known in Parliamentary history are those relating to Mr. Pitt’s administration in the Peace of Amiens, in 1802. On the 7th May, 1802, a motion was made in the Commons for an address

'expressing the thanks of this House to His Majesty for having been pleased to remove the Right Hon. W. Pitt from his councils'; upon which an amendment was proposed and carried, which left out all the words after the first and substituted others in direct opposition to them, by which the whole policy of Mr. Pitt was commended. Immediately afterwards an address was moved in both Houses of Parliament condemning the Treaty of Amiens in a long statement of facts and arguments; and in each House an amendment was substituted whereby an address was resolved upon which justified the Treaty.

"This practice has often been objected to as unfair, but the objection is unfounded, as the weaker party must always anticipate defeat, in one form or another" * * *

May, Tenth Edition, page 275—

* * * "The object of an amendment may be to effect such an alteration in a question as will * * * present to the House an alternative proposition, either wholly or partially opposed to the original question."

The authorities quoted seem to be conclusive, and I rule that the amendment is in order.

D. W. HIGGINS.

The debate was further adjourned until to-morrow.

Mr. *Kennedy* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:—

1. What has been the cost of lands acquired for the new Parliament Buildings?
2. What is the total cost of the new buildings to date?
3. What is the cost of furniture and fixings (in detail) to date?
4. What is the cost of retaining wall in front of buildings; also stone-work around flag-staff?
5. What has been the cost of removing old buildings and levelling grounds, to date, or as nearly to date as possible?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows:—

- "1. \$56,206.00.
- "2. Total payments to 31st January, \$828,111.79.
- "3. Total payments to 31st January, \$34,043.90.
- "4. \$6,187.75.
- "5. \$4,032.86."

The following Petitions were presented:—

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *John Morris Catton* and others, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Teslin Lake Electric Lighting Company."

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *John Morris Catton* and others, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Fort Simpson, Glenora and Klondyke Railway Company."

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *J. Morris Catton* and others, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Teslin Lake and Victoria Telegraph and Cable Company."

By Mr. *Bryden*, from *H. Mailland-Kersey* and others, opposing Petition (No. 23) of *Wm. McKenzie, Donald D. Mann*, and *John Herbert Hoar*, for a Private Bill.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5:50 o'clock, p. m.

Friday, 25th February, 1898.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. *J. F. Betts*.

The following Petitions were received and referred to the Private Bills Committee:—

From *John Morris Catton* and others, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Teslin Lake Electric Lighting Company."

From *John Morris Catton* and others, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Fort Simpson, Glenora and Klondyke Railway Company."

From *J. Morris Catton* and others, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Teslin Lake and Victoria Telegraph and Cable Company."

From *H. Maitland Kersey* and others, opposing Petition (No. 23) of *Wm. McKenzie, Donald D. Mann, and John Herbert Hoar*, for a Private Bill.

The following Petition was presented:—

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *Charles R. Hosmer* and others, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Red Mountain Tunnel Company."

Bill (No 2) intituled "An Act to give effect to the Revised Statutes of British Columbia," was read a second time and committed, with Mr. *Huff* in the Chair.

Progress reported.

Committee to sit again on Monday next.

On the motion of Mr. *Kellie*, Private Bill (No. 12) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Revelstoke and Cassiar Railway Company," was introduced and read a first time and referred to the Railway Committee.

Mr. *Hunter* presented the Eighth Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
25th February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

That the Standing Orders in connection with the under-mentioned Petitions have been complied with:

No. 1—The Petition of the Skeena River Railway, Colonization and Exploration Company.

No. 18—The Petition of Revelstoke and Cassiar Railway Company.

JOSEPH HUNTER,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* presented the Annual Report of the Superintendent of Police respecting the police, prisons and reformatories of British Columbia, for the year ending 31st October, 1897.

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented the following papers:—

Statement of Orders in Council and regulations made under authority of sec. 161 of the "Mineral Act, 1896," and sec. 13 of the "Placer Mining Act (1891) Amendment Act, 1896."

Statement of bonds deposited in the Provincial Secretary's Office by civil officers of the Province for the due performance of their duties, under the "Civil Service Act."

Statement of the names and places of residence of Collectors of Revenue paid by commission, rate of same, and authority therefor.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock on Monday next.

And then the House adjourned at 3:10 o'clock, P. M.

Monday, 28th February, 1898.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. R. W. Trotter.

The following Petitions were presented :—

By Mr. *Hume*, from *Theo. Madsen* and others, residents of *Kootenay*, re amending "Municipal Clauses Act" with reference to licences to transient traders.

By Mr. *Hume*, from *W. A. Skinner* and others, free miners of *Ainsworth Mining Division* of *Kootenay*, re proposed amendments to the Mining Acts.

The following Petition was received and referred to the Private Bills Committee :—

From *Charles R. Hosmer* and others, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Red Mountain Tunnel Company."

On the motion of Mr. *Rogers*, Private Bill (No. 13) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Skeena River and Eastern Railway Company," was introduced, read a first time, and referred to the Railway Committee.

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented a Return of copies of all correspondence between the Government and any person whatsoever, in connection with the employment of Chinese or Japanese labour below ground in the metallurgical mines of the Province.

On the motion of Mr. *Hunter*, the Third Report, of 19th February, inst., from the Private Bills Committee was adopted, and the Standing Rules and Orders suspended, to enable the Bill intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Arrowhead and Kootenay Railway Company" to be introduced.

On the motion of Mr. *Kellie*, Private Bill (No. 14) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Arrowhead and Kootenay Railway Company," was introduced, read a first time, and referred to the Railway Committee.

On the motion of Mr. *Macpherson*, seconded by Mr. *Kidd*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of all papers, correspondence and statement of accounts between this Government and other parties in connection with the settlement of *Leamy & Kyle's* assignment.

On the motion of Mr. *Forster*, seconded by Mr. *Hume*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return shewing the cost incidental to the Commission for Revising the Statutes, and stating in detail the amount paid to each Commissioner from the commencement of the work up to the present date, and the amounts paid for clerical assistance, and to whom, and the amount still due, if any.

On the motion of Mr. *Macpherson*, seconded by Mr. *Kidd*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of the names of all companies which have complied with the "Companies Act, 1897." Also a return of the names of any companies which have rendered themselves liable to the penalties provided in the Act, and a statement of the steps taken against such companies.

On the motion of Mr. *Semlin*, seconded by Mr. *Williams*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return shewing—

(a.) Statement of all timber leases granted to the *Sayward Mill and Timber Company, Limited*, of *Victoria*, and names of parties by whom such leases are now held.

(b.) Statement of all sums now owing to the Government by said company in regard to rent of limits, royalties on timber, or otherwise.

(c.) Statement whether the men employed by said company (whose claim for wages the liquidator was unable to pay out of the funds in his hands, on account of the prior claim of the Government for unpaid dues) have yet been paid their wages.

(d.) Particulars of all unpaid claims for wages on account of the *Sayward Mill and Timber Company*, of which the Government have cognizance.

On the motion of Mr. *Hume*, seconded by Mr. *Forster*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of all correspondence in regard to the application of *A. F. Heinze* for a record of water on *Beaver Creek*.

On the motion of Mr. *Semlin*, seconded by Mr. *Williams*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for copies of all advertisements calling for tenders for the furnishing of the Provincial Home at *Kamloops*.

For the particulars of the amount of \$2,218 paid to *M. P. Gordon*, and the amount of \$1,195 paid to *Weiler*—*vide* Public Accounts, 1894-95, page 103.

On the motion of Mr. *Sword*, seconded by Mr. *Kennedy*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for copies of the prospectuses of the different Provincial loans issued since 1890.

On the motion of Mr. *Cotton*, seconded by Mr. *Semlin*, it was *Resolved*,—

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to lay before the House copies of any correspondence between His Honour or His Honour's Ministers and any person in regard to the regulations issued under the provisions of the "Water Clauses Consolidation Act."

Mr. *Semlin* asked the Hon. the Provincial Secretary the following question:—

1. Has there been a second investigation of Constable *Hunter's* conduct?
2. If so, what was the charge, or were the charges inquired into?
3. Before whom was the investigation held?

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* replied as follows:—

"The investigation referred to was with regard to Mr. *Hunter's* duties as a Mining Recorder, and I present herewith papers which contain the information desired:—

"KAMLOOPS, February 26th, 1898.

"SIR,—I have the honour to state that in accordance with instructions received I have investigated the charges made by Mr. *F. P. Cook* against Mr. *Hunter*, the Mining Recorder at Granite Creek, and desire to state that the latter did not deny any of the allegations made.

"The bills of sale referred to by Mr. *Cook* were brought to the office on Saturday at 1 p.m. for record, but could not be immediately dealt with in consequence of some other papers having been previously received which demanded prior registration, but offered as soon as these were disposed of to attend to them, which would be on the following Monday, and therefore after the departure of the stage carrying the mail to Nicola, which leaves the preceding day (Sunday) at 1 p.m. The office is supposed to be closed on Saturday afternoons, but the usual office hours are not adhered to in consequence of the irregular attendance of the Mining Recorder, which sometimes occurs when he is absent on other duties he has to discharge.

"The foregoing is the principal cause of the complaint which, I think, has been satisfactorily explained; the other, that of removing the office during the winter to a room in the private residence, which is also a Government building, was made at my suggestion, as being more comfortable for all parties to transact business in a room that was warm the whole day. The present office is cold, and during the absence of the officer, when a low temperature prevails, the ink freezes and inconvenience ensues. For these reasons I thought the change would be advisable, and I believe it is properly appreciated by the community at large.

"Several persons were produced by Mr. Cook to prove that Hunter had mentioned to a friend in Wallace's saloon the difficulty between the two parties in connection with the recording of the bills of sale, but as the remarks contained no reflection on Mr. Cook I do not deem this charge of sufficient importance to need comment.

"The same remark also applies to the removal of the stove from the office, which was afterwards corrected to mean the pipe. The reply to this was that being in an unsafe condition its removal was necessary.

"After a due consideration of the complaints I have arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Hunter is undeserving of any censure.

"I have, &c.,
(Signed)

"G. C. TUNSTALL,
"Gold Commissioner."

"GRANITE CREEK, 4th December, 1897.

"The Hon. James Baker,

"Minister of Mines, Victoria:

"DEAR SIR,—To-day I asked the Recorder, Mr. Hugh Hunter, at what time I should find him in his office; at first he wanted to attend to my business outside of the office, and when it could not be done, so he finally said, you'll have to come over to my house, which I am now using for office work. I object to have to go to a man's private house on public business, and concluded to report the matter to yourself; however I went and produced two bills of sale to be recorded, and was told they would have to wait their turn, and could not be recorded before Monday, 6th inst., as the work was so much behind, and so much to do, that he could not do the same. Consequently I picked up the bills of sale and walked out, and lose one whole week by not being able to send the same east by mail, where they are expected on time. I noticed when passing the Government Office that the stove had been removed. Mr. Hunter had been outside, and only returned on the evening of the 1st December, when the records could not be made, but it seems to me out of order to have to go to a private house to make such records, and out of order also to be told that they could not be attended to, and still more out of order when the Recorder reports what occurs between myself and himself (in his private house) in a public bar room.

"You may not be aware of these things going on, so I beg to inform you of same.

"I remain, yours faithfully,

"F. P. COOK."

Mr. Vedder asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:—

What was the \$422.50 for entered in the Accounts at 30th June, 1897, as paid on account of the *Matsqui* Dyking Commissioners? Do the said Commissioners know of or acknowledge this claim?

The Hon. Mr. Martin replied as follows:—

"In payment of their proportion of the Inspecting Engineer's salary to that date. They were aware that such salary was being advanced by the Government, and was properly chargeable against them."

Mr. Kennedy asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:—

1. By what rule are logs cut on leases or on logger's licences computed for revenue?
2. By what rule is the rebate which is allowed on lumber exported computed?
3. Is it the intention of the Government to abolish said rebate, or to reduce the dues to all?

The Hon. Mr. Martin replied as follows:—

"1. By the British Columbia log scale.

"2. By the actual measurement of the lumber exported.

"3. I decline to answer, because it seeks to elicit an expression of opinion upon a matter of policy."

Mr. *Hunter* presented the Ninth Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
28th February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders beg leave to report as follows:—

That your Committee has considered Petition No. 23, being the Petition of William McKenzie, Donald D. Mann, and John Herbert Hoare, and your Committee begs to recommend that the Order of the House for the reception of the said Petition and its reference to this Committee be rescinded.

JOSEPH HUNTER,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

On the motion to adopt the Report a debate arose, which was adjourned until to-morrow.

Mr. *Booth* presented the First Report from the Railway Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
28th February, 1898.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Standing Committee on Railways beg leave to report as follows:—

That we have considered Bill (No. 5) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Kitimat Railway Company, Limited," and beg leave to submit the same with amendments.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

Mr. *Semlin* asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following question:—

Have you received a Petition this year in reference to the construction of a road from *Princeton* to *Keremeos*, in the *Similkameen Valley*?

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* replied as follows:—

"No."

Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act to give effect to the Revised Statutes of British Columbia," was again committed.

Reported complete with amendments.

Report to be considered to-morrow.

The adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. *Cotton*, as follows:—

"That in the opinion of this House the double taxation involved in the present system of taxing mortgages is an injustice."

And the amendment thereto moved by Major *Mutter*, as follows:—

"To amend the Resolution by striking out all the words after 'House' and inserting in place thereof the following:—

"the personal property tax on moneys included in mortgages and taxed to the mortgagee is not double taxation."

was resumed.

Question proposed, "Shall all the words after the word 'House' stand part of the question?" and resolved in the negative on the following division:—

YEAS :

Messieurs

Sword,
Kennedy,
Hume,

Forster,
Macpherson,
Kidd,

Vedder,
Williams,
Semlin,

Cotton,
Graham,
Kellie—12.

NAYS :

Messieurs

<i>Huff,</i>	<i>Turner,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Bryden,</i>
<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>	<i>Stoddart,</i>	<i>Rogers,</i>
<i>Mutter,</i>	<i>Rithet,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>
<i>Baker,</i>	<i>Adams,</i>	<i>Eberts,</i>	<i>McGregor—16.</i>

The amendment, and question as amended, carried on the following division :—

YEAS :

Messieurs

<i>Huff,</i>	<i>Turner,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Bryden,</i>
<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>	<i>Stoddart,</i>	<i>Rogers,</i>
<i>Mutter,</i>	<i>Rithet,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>
<i>Baker,</i>	<i>Adams,</i>	<i>Eberts,</i>	<i>McGregor—16.</i>

NAYS :

Messieurs

<i>Sword,</i>	<i>Forster,</i>	<i>Vedder,</i>	<i>Cotton,</i>
<i>Kennedy,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Williams,</i>	<i>Graham,</i>
<i>Hume,</i>	<i>Kidd,</i>	<i>Semlin,</i>	<i>Kellie—12.</i>

Upon the motion of Mr. *Hunter*, the Fifth Report from the Private Bills Committee was adopted, and the Standing Rules and Orders suspended, to enable Private Bill intituled "An Act respecting the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company, Limited," to be introduced.

The following Private Bills were introduced, read a first time, and referred to the Railway Committee :—

By Mr. *Booth*—Bill (No. 15) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the East Kootenay Valley Railway Company."

By Mr. *Cotton*—Bill (No. 16) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the North Star and Arrow Lake Railway Company."

The following Private Bills were introduced, read a first time, and referred to the Private Bills Committee :—

By Mr. *McGregor*—Bill (No. 17) intituled "An Act respecting the Nanaimo Electric Light, Power and Heating Company, Limited."

By Mr. *Huff*—Bill (No. 18) intituled "An Act respecting the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company, Limited."

Resolved, That the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until two o'clock to-morrow.

And then the House adjourned at 5 o'clock, P. M.