

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

SESSION 1897.

Monday, 8th February, 1897.

THREE O'CLOCK, P. M.

This being the first day of the third 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 EDGAR DEWDNEY, Lieutenant Governor of the Province, dated the Twenty-ninth day of December, 1896.

His Honour the Honourable *Edgar Dewdney*, Lieutenant-Governor, having entered the House, took his seat on the Throne, and was pleased to deliver the following gracious Speech:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legis'lative Assembly:

I extend my cordial greeting to you on this Third Session of our Seventh Parliament, feeling confident that you are fully alive to the responsibilities of your positions, and that you will consider the interests of the people with the same wisdom and thoughtfulness which have always characterized your legislative labours.

It gives me great satisfaction to learn that the widespread discovery of phenomenal mineral wealth throughout the Province has attracted capital from the great financial centres, and that great activity is manifested in the development of our Mining Industry, as evidenced by the large increase of the public revenue. Notwithstanding that the output of coal is less than last year, from the increased competition in the San Francisco market, the value of the annual export of minerals of all kinds exhibits a very large increase.

It gives me pleasure to notice that the timber industry is recovering from the depression of the last few years, and that there is a reasonable expectation of a healthy development of the vast timber resources of the Province.

Our products from agriculture have suffered from the long and unusual drought of last summer, except where irrigation has been in operation, thus proving the security afforded by that useful adjunct to farming.

The steps taken for the encouragement of Dairy Farming have already been productive of satisfactory results in the establishment of several creameries, and there is a prospect of others being in operation in the near future.

I am gratified to find that the Board of Horticulture, assisted by the Fruit Growers' Association, has been actively and successfully engaged in fostering the undoubted resources of the Province for profitable fruit growing.

I regret that the sealing industry has not been so successful as last year, owing to the small catch and low prices, and the uncertainty existing as to possible changes in the regulations which may affect the hunting and killing of seals.

The Salmon and other Fishing Industries have shewn a catch above the average of previous years, and an interesting experiment has been made by the successful introduction of lobsters into the waters on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

The discovery of our extensive and wonderful resources in minerals calls for the consideration of a railway policy which will prove adequate to provide transportation facilities for the development of the natural wealth which is known to exist, and a measure will be submitted to you which will have for its object financial aid in the construction of such public works as will tend to the profitable development of the resources of the Province.

The Provincial Board of Health has been actively engaged in attending to the sanitary condition of the Province, and, in view of the lamentable outbreak of plague in India, further steps will be taken for careful sanitation.

The draft consolidation and revision of the Statute Law of the Province, under the auspices of the learned Chief Justice of British Columbia, has been completed, and the result of his labour has been submitted for final examination and revision to a Commission consisting of himself and two Judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

It is with pleasure I have to inform you that the action brought to test the question of the ownership of the precious metals in the Island Railway Grant, as between the Province and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company, has by the Privy Council been decided in favour of the Province.

It is with deep regret that I have heard of the acute sufferings of the people of India in consequence of widespread famine, and I commend for your consideration some measure of practical sympathy through the Indian Famine Relief Fund.

I feel every confidence that your staunch loyalty will prompt you to an expression of heartfelt congratulation to Her Most Gracious Majesty on her having attained the longest reign of any Sovereign of England, and that you will cordially join with the rest of Her Majesty's subjects in expressions of devotion to Her Crown and person.

Among measures to be submitted for your consideration during the coming Session will be—

“An Act to amend the ‘Companies Act.’”

“An Act for the encouragement of Farmers’ Institutes.”

“An Act to amend the ‘Lunacy Act.’”

It is gratifying to find that the estimated revenue for last year has been fully justified.

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing year, to be shortly laid before you, will be found to be framed with due regard to the exigencies of the Province, in consequence of the rapid development of its resources, consistent with strict regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

I congratulate you that in consequence of the “Sinking Fund Adjustment Act,” passed last Session, the sum of \$166,313 has been transferred to the Consolidated Revenue of the Province.

With every confidence that your labours will be pursued with energy and zeal for the honour and advantage of the Province, I now leave you to your deliberations, trusting that the Supreme Ruler may direct your efforts.

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

Prayers by the Rev. Dr. *Jno. Campbell*.

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 Wednesday next.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 1) intituled “An Act to amend the ‘Co-operative Associations Act, 1896.’”

Leave granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting of the House.

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* presented, by command of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Public accounts for the Fiscal Year ended 30th June, 1896.

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

And then the House adjourned at 3:30 o'clock, p. m.

Wednesday, 10th February, 1897.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Dr. *Campbell*.

The following Petitions were presented and laid on the table:—

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *John R. Mitchell* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Okanagan Water-Power Company.”

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *John R. Mitchell* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The South Kootenay Water-Power Company.”

By Mr. *Hunter*, from “The Cumberland and Union Water-Works Company,” for a Private Bill for incorporation, with additional powers.

By Mr. *Kellie*, from *R. J. Bealey* and *Charles T. Long*, for establishment of a Land Registry Office at *Rossland*, etc.

By Mr. *Booth*, from *Oliver Durant* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited.”

By Mr. *Kellie*, from *Wm. Cowan* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Revelstoke Water-Works, Electric Light and Power Company, Limited.”

By Mr. *Kellie*, from *Wm. Cowan* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Revelstoke, Trout Lake and Big Bend Telephone Company, Limited.”

By Mr. *Graham*, from *W. A. Dier* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Fairview Power, Water and Telephone Company, Limited.”

By Mr. *Graham*, from *R. L. Causton* and others, supporting Private Bill to incorporate “The Fairview Power, Water and Telephone Company.”

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

Mr. *J. Hunter* moved, seconded by Mr. *D. A. Stoddart*,—

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 Third Session of the Seventh Parliament, and further to assure His Honour that we are fully alive to the responsibilities of our positions, and that we will endeavour to consider the interests of the people with wisdom and thoughtfulness.

2. That we share His Honour's satisfaction in learning that the widespread discovery of phenomenal mineral wealth throughout the Province has attracted capital from the great financial centres, and that great activity is manifested in the development of our mining industry, as evidenced by the large increase of the public revenue; and that, notwithstanding the output of coal is less than last year, from the increased competition in the San Francisco market, the value of the annual export of minerals of all kinds exhibits a very large increase.

3. That we learn with pleasure that the timber industry is recovering from the depression of the last few years, and that there is a reasonable expectation of a healthy development of the vast timber resources of the Province.

4. That we note that our products from agriculture have suffered from the long and unusual drought of last summer, except where irrigation has been in operation, thus proving the security afforded by that useful adjunct to farming.

5. That it is satisfactory to hear that the steps taken for the encouragement of dairy farming have already been productive of satisfactory results in the establishment of several creameries, and that there is a prospect of others being in operation in the near future.

6. That we are gratified to find that the Board of Horticulture, assisted by the Fruit Growers' Association, has been actively and successfully engaged in fostering the undoubted resources of the Province for profitable fruit growing.

7. That we hear with regret that the sealing industry has not been so successful as last year, owing to the small catch and low prices, and the uncertainty existing as to possible changes in the regulations which may affect the hunting and killing of seals.

8. That we are happy to be informed that the salmon and other fishing industries have shewn a catch above the average of previous years, and are interested in the experiment which has been made by the successful introduction of lobsters into the waters on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

9. That on account of the discovery of our extensive and wonderful resources in minerals calling for consideration of a railway policy which will prove adequate to provide transportation facilities for the development of the natural wealth which is known to exist, we will give our closest attention to any measure submitted to us which may have for its object financial aid in the construction of such public works as will tend to the profitable development of the resources of the Province.

10. That we are pleased to learn that the Provincial Board of Health has been actively engaged in attending to the sanitary condition of the Province, and that, in view of the lamentable outbreak of plague in India, further steps will be taken for careful sanitation.

11. That it is gratifying to be informed that the draft consolidation and revision of the Statute Law of the Province, under the auspices of the learned Chief Justice of British Columbia, has been completed, and the result of his labour submitted for final examination and revision to a Commission consisting of himself and two Judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

12. That we receive with pleasure the information that the action brought to test the question of the ownership of the precious metals in the Island Railway Grant, as between the Province and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company, has by the Privy Council been decided in favour of the Province.

13. That we hear with deep regret of the acute sufferings of the people of India, in consequence of widespread famine, and we will give earnest consideration to a measure of practical sympathy through the Indian Famine Relief Fund.

14. That we will take advantage of the occasion to express our staunch loyalty and congratulation to Her Most Gracious Majesty on her having attained the longest reign of any sovereign of England, and we will cordially join with the rest of Her Majesty's subjects in expressions of devotion to Her Crown and person.

15. That we will devote ourselves to the consideration of all measures submitted to us during the coming Session, including—

“An Act to amend the ‘Companies Act.’”

“An Act for the encouragement of Farmers’ Institutes.”

“An Act to amend the ‘Lunacy Act.’”

16. That it is gratifying to be informed that the estimated revenue for last year has been fully justified.

17. That we are pleased to know from His Honour that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing year will be shortly laid before us, and are gratified to know that they will be found to be framed with due regard to the exigencies of the Province, in consequence of the rapid development of its resources, consistent with strict regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

18. That we accept gratefully His Honour’s congratulations that in consequence of the “Sinking Fund Adjustment Act,” passed last Session, the sum of \$166,313 has been transferred to the Consolidated Revenue of the Province.

19. That we thank His Honour for his expression of confidence that our labours will be pursued with energy and zeal for the honour and advantage of the Province, and we humbly trust that the Supreme Ruler may direct our efforts.

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

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

The following returns and papers were presented :—

Papers relative to the importance of establishing additional fish hatcheries in British Columbia.

Return under sub-section (3) of section 1, intituled “An Act to provide for the recognition in this Province of Probates and Letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom and elsewhere.”

Papers relating to telegraph line and service between *Victoria* and *Carmanah Point*.

Return under section 4 of the “Small Debts Act Amendment Act, 1896.”

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

Thursday, 11th February, 1897.

TWO O’CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Dr. *Campbell*.

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 and laid on the table :—

By Mr. *Stoddart*, from *Thos. J. Jones* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The Cascade Water, Power and Light Company.”

By Mr. *Booth*, from *Wm. Templeman* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate a company *re Burrard Inlet and Fraser Valley Railway*.

By Mr. *Graham*, from *Jno. A. Manley* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate “The City of Grand Forks.”

Messrs. *Hunter, Smith, Helmcken, Stoddart, Cotton, Kitchen* (substitute, *Semlin*) and *Williams* were nominated to form the Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders.

Messrs. *Rithet, Mutter, McGregor, Sword* and *Kidd* were nominated to form the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Messrs. *Booth, Rithet, Huff, Rogers, Hunter, Adams, Kellie, Walkem, Bryden, Irving, Sword, Kidd, Macpherson, Hume, Graham, Forster, Kennedy* and *Semlin* were nominated to form the Select Standing Committee on Railways.

Messrs. *Smith, Adams, Rogers, Kellie, Bryden, McGregor, Braden, Graham, Hume, Kennedy, Macpherson, Forster* and *Sword* were nominated to form the Select Standing Committee on Mining.

Messrs. *Mutter, Booth, Irving, Kennedy* and *Macpherson* were nominated to form the Select Standing Committee on Printing.

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented a Return relating to the Acts passed by the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia during the Session of 1896.

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

And then the House adjourned at 5:30 o'clock, p. m.

Friday, 12th February, 1897.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Dr. *Campbell*.

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.

The said Address was 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 Provincial Secretary, 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 Attorney-General, the Honourable the Provincial Secretary, the Honourable the President of the Executive Council, the Honourable the Minister of Finance, the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and Messrs. *Hunter* and *Stoddart*.

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

To the Honourable EDGAR DEWDNEY, 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 Third 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 share Your Honour's satisfaction in learning that the widespread discovery of phenomenal mineral wealth throughout the Province has attracted capital from the great financial centres, and that great activity is manifested in the development of our mining industry, as evidenced by the large increase of the public revenue, and that notwithstanding the output of coal is less than last year, from the increased competition in the San Francisco market, the value of the annual export of minerals of all kinds exhibits a very large increase.

We learn with pleasure that the timber industry is recovering from the depression of the last few years, and that there is a reasonable expectation of a healthy development of the vast timber resources of the Province.

We note that our products from agriculture have suffered from the long and unusual drought of last summer, except where irrigation has been in operation, thus proving the security afforded by that useful adjunct to farming.

It is satisfactory to hear that the steps taken for the encouragement of dairy farming have already been productive of satisfactory results in the establishment of several creameries and that there is a prospect of others being in operation in the near future.

We are gratified to find that the Board of Horticulture, assisted by the Fruit Growers' Association, has been actively and successfully engaged in fostering the undoubted resources of the Province for profitable fruit growing.

We hear with regret that the sealing industry has not been so successful as last year, owing to the small catch and low prices, and the uncertainty existing as to possible changes in the regulations which may affect the hunting and killing of seals.

We are happy to be informed that the salmon and other fishing industries have shewn a catch above the average of previous years, and are interested in the experiment which has been made by the successful introduction of lobsters into the waters on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

On account of the discovery of our extensive and wonderful resources in minerals calling for consideration of a railway policy which will prove adequate to provide transportation facilities for the development of the natural wealth which is known to exist, we will give our closest attention to any measure submitted to us which may have for its object financial aid in the construction of such public works as will tend to the profitable development of the resources of the Province.

We are pleased to learn that the Provincial Board of Health has been actively engaged in attending to the sanitary condition of the Province, and that, in view of the lamentable outbreak of plague in India, further steps will be taken for careful sanitation.

It is gratifying to be informed that the draft consolidation and revision of the Statute Law of the Province, under the auspices of the learned Chief Justice of British Columbia, has been completed, and the result of his labour submitted for final examination and revision to a Commission consisting of himself and two Judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

We receive with pleasure the information that the action brought to test the question of the ownership of the precious metals in the Island Railway Grant, as between the Province and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company, has by the Privy Council been decided in favour of the Province.

We hear with deep regret of the acute sufferings of the people of India, in consequence of widespread famine, and we will give earnest consideration to a measure of practical sympathy through the Indian Famine Relief Fund.

We will take advantage of the occasion to express our staunch loyalty and congratulation to Her Most Gracious Majesty on her having attained the longest reign of any sovereign of England, and we will cordially join with the rest of Her Majesty's subjects in expressions of devotion to Her Crown and person.

We will devote ourselves to the consideration of all measures submitted to us during the coming Session, including—

“An Act to amend the ‘Companies Act.’”

“An Act for the encouragement of Farmers' Institutes.”

“An Act to amend the ‘Lunacy Act.’”

It is gratifying to be informed that the estimated revenue for last year has been fully justified.

We are pleased to know from Your Honour that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing year will be shortly laid before us, and are gratified to know that they will be found to be framed with due regard to the exigencies of the Province, in consequence

of the rapid development of its resources, consistent with strict regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

We accept gratefully Your Honour's congratulations that in consequence of the "Sinking Fund Adjustment Act," passed last Session, the sum of \$166,313 has been transferred to the Consolidated Revenue of the Province.

We thank Your Honour for your expression of confidence that our labours will be pursued with energy and zeal for the honour and advantage of the Province, and we humbly trust that the Supreme Ruler may direct our efforts.

On the motion of the Honourable the Premier, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, 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.

The following Petitions were read and received :—

From *John R. Mitchell* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Okanagan Water-Power Company."

From *John R. Mitchell* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The South Kootenay Water-power Company."

From "The Cumberland and Union Water-Works Company," for a Private Bill for incorporation, with additional powers.

From *Oliver Durant* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited."

From *Wm. Cowan* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Revelstoke Water-Works, Electric Light and Power Company, Limited."

From *Wm. Cowan* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Revelstoke, Trout Lake and Big Bend Telephone Company, Limited."

From *W. A. Dier* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Fairview Power, Water and Telephone Company, Limited."

From *R. L. Cawston* and others, supporting Private Bill to incorporate "The Fairview Power, Water and Telephone Company."

From *Thos. J. Jones* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Cascade Water, Power and Light Company."

From *Wm. Temp'eman* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate a company *re Burrard Inlet and Fraser Valley Railway*.

From *Jno. A. Manley* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The City of Grand Forks."

The Petition from *R. J. Bealey* and *Char'es T. Long*, for establishment of a Land Registry Office at *Rossland*, etc., was ruled out of order.

Mr. *Cotton* presented a Petition from *Geo. I. Wilson* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate a company *re Nanaimo and Vancouver ferry*.

Received.

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

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return showing the total amount and value of the output of the mines of British Columbia to January 1st, 1897.

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented a Return showing the total amount and value of the output of the mines of British Columbia to January 1st, 1897.

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

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that itemised returns be sent down to this House of all expenses in connection with the floating of the loan authorised by the "British Columbia Loan Act, 1895;" said returns to include all commissions paid to brokers, bankers and others, and the expenses, travelling and otherwise, of the Minister of Finance in connection with the floating of said loan.

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

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying for returns of all expenses charged against the Government in connection with the recent trip of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary to and from *Ottawa*, *Toronto*, and *Montreal*.

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* moved in amendment, seconded by the Hon. Mr. *Pooley*,—

That the words "*Toronto* and *Montreal*" be struck out and the following inserted:—"and all correspondence relating to the said trip."

Amendment put and carried.

Resolution, as amended, put and carried.

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

What action was taken with reference to giving effect to the grievances of the sealers, as laid before the Executive by the special committee in the month of December last?

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

"The matter has been considered by the Executive, and an Order in Council has been passed setting out the complaint of the sealers and drawing the attention of the Dominion Government to the harshness of certain regulations, and asking for their offices in placing the whole subject before the Imperial Government, so that, if possible, the grievances complained of may be brought to the attention of the latter Government, and in the event of any changes being made in the regulations, the grievances of the British sealers may be done away with."

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

Was any Order in Council passed pursuant to 59 Vic., ch. 13, sec. 3? If not, is it the intention to pass any Order in Council? If so, when?

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

"No general Order commuting the fees of all Stipendiary Magistrates in the Province has been passed, but provision has been made in the case of a recent appointment.

"It is further intended to pass other Orders from time to time, as the returns sent in afford sufficient information upon which to base a fair adjustment of salaries. The fact that the Act was only recently declared constitutional has prevented the collection hitherto of satisfactory information for this purpose."

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

What action was taken by the Government with reference to the Resolution of this House passed on the 28th day of January, A. D. 1896, dealing with the removal of the Indians from the *Songhees Reserve*?

What action was taken by the Dominion Government with respect thereto?

What is the present position of the question?

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

"The Resolution referred to was duly transmitted to the Secretary of State of Canada, and during the visit of the Provincial Secretary to Ottawa the matter was discussed with that official and Mr. Reed of the Indian Department.

"The action taken by the Federal Government is set forth in the Report of the Privy Council of the 1st of April, 1896, herewith submitted.

"As regards the present position, this Government is awaiting a reply to a Minute of the Executive Council of the 1st of June, 1896, made after consideration of the aforesaid Report of the 1st of April last."

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

Is it the intention of the Government to bring down a Bill at the present Session to abolish the free miner's tax, in so far as it relates to persons actually employed in or about mines and to persons having contracts for the supply and delivery of goods to the miners ?

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

“ Yes.”

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

What is causing the delay in the settlement of the *Revelstoke Townsite* dispute, as arranged between the Provincial and Dominion Governments ?

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

“ The principal cause of the delay in the settlement of the question of the disputed lands in the Railway Belt rests with the owners themselves, as, out of ten original grantees or their successors in title, only five have responded to the request of this Government to execute surrenders and releases.

“ In the Farwell Townsite, out of fifty-seven beneficial owners, either under conveyances or agreements for sale, only four have as yet placed themselves in communication with the Government, although every possible means, by public advertisements and the issue of circulars, have been taken to bring the matter to their notice. Of these four, none have completely established their claims.

“ Another cause of delay has been the non-receipt of information and maps requested from and promised by the Dominion Government to identify those lands dealt with by the Dominion prior to 29th March, 1895 (the date of the Dominion Order in Council), the grantees of which from the Provincial Government do not come within the terms of the settlement.

“ The five surrenders already executed are delayed in transmission, pending approval of the Minister of Justice and an assurance from the Dominion Government that the grants to be received in exchange will be of the same liberal character as the original grants from the Province.”

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

What action was taken with reference to the two Resolutions passed on the 4th day of February, 1896, and 11th day of February, 1896, respectively ?

What action was taken by the Dominion Government with reference to the several Resolutions ?

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

“ The Resolution passed on the 4th day of February last, in regard to the placing of a revenue cutter in the northern waters of the Province, and the Resolution of the 11th day of February following, in reference to the necessity of placing in commission a vessel to render aid in cases of shipwreck occurring in British Columbia waters, were forwarded to the Secretary of State and acknowledged by him.

“ I also took the opportunity, when in Ottawa, of bringing the subjects of the said Resolutions to the attention of the Federal Government, and received an assurance that the matters would be considered.”

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented Papers in *re* removal of the Indians from the *Songhees Indian Reserve*.

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

And then the House adjourned at 5 p. m.

Monday, 15th February, 1897.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. S. Cleaver.

The following Petitions were presented and laid on the table :—

By Mr. Kellie, from *William Marion Redpath, Edwin Dennis Sanders*, and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate a Company *re* the supplying of water to the inhabitants of the Town of *Trail*.

By Mr. Kellie, from *H. T. Bragdon, Geo. W. Willard, James Anderson*, and others, residents of the Town of *Trail*, in support of Private Bill *re* the supplying of water to the said town.

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

That owing to the depressed condition of agriculture, the question of assessment of agricultural lands calls for the immediate attention of this Parliament.

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

That an Order of this House be granted for a Return showing all transactions of the Provincial Government with any person or persons, company or companies, with respect to the "Creameries Act, 1896"; said returns to furnish (a) the names of all persons or companies to whom or which aid has been extended; (b) amount of said aid; (c) location of any such creamery.

Mr. *Macpherson* moved, seconded by Mr. *Forster*,—

That this House is of opinion that the authority conferred upon the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to sell lands should not apply to lands upon the sea coast and navigable arms, inlets and rivers, as far as navigable, as it is impossible at present to say what portions of such lands may in the future be required for fishing stations; and that no applications already made, for which Crown Grants have not yet been issued, should be granted, but that leases be granted in lieu thereof, unless the applicants already have leases, in which cases their application for Crown Grant should be cancelled.

A debate arose, which was 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 copies of the case submitted to the Full Court in the following matters, viz. :—

- (1.) The "Small Debts Act, 1895";
- (2.) The "Coal Mines Regulation Amendment Act, 1890";

together with the judgments delivered therein, respectively.

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

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for a Return of all correspondence with the Dominion Government resulting from the motion of February 14th, 1896, respecting the quarantine regulations at *Williams Head*.

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

That an Order of the House be granted for a return showing the number of land transfers in *West Kootenay* for the year 1896.

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

Mr. *Helmcken* moved, seconded by Mr. *Walkem*,—

That an humble Address be presented by this House to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to move the Dominion Government to take into consideration the desirability of increasing the per capita tax on Chinese coming into the Dominion, and urging that in the opinion of this House three-fourths of all moneys received in British Columbia ports from the present tax, or (if such tax be increased) three-fourths of such revenue so increased should be paid to this Province, as the chief injury from the presence of the Chinese is sustained by the Province, and not by the Dominion.

A debate arose, which was adjourned until Friday next.

On the motion of Mr. *Kellie*, seconded by Mr. *Hume*, 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 between his Government, or any member thereof, and any person or persons, company or companies, in relation to the proposed construction of railways from the coast to the *Columbia River*, or to any part of the *Kootenay District*.

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

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return showing the number of Provincial and foreign joint stock companies incorporated or registered under all Acts relating to joint stock companies, giving the capital stock of each, the date of registration, and the registered and head office of any and all such companies.

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

Why was the Log Sealing Act of 1894 rescinded during the recess?

By what authority was this done, seeing that, by the unanimous vote of this House, the report of the Committee appointed to examine into its working and recommending its enforcement was received?

Ruled out of order.

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

What has been promised to the people who propose to settle on the north end of *Vancouver Island*? Will the Government send down to this House a copy of all correspondence relating to the above subject?

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

"1. The same as to the colonists at *Bella Coola*, viz. :—A lease for five years, rent free, and a free grant of 160 acres at end of that time, provided \$5 per acre improvements are made upon the lands, and not less than 30 settlers to commence the colony; each settler to have \$300 cash (or its equivalent) of his own.

"2. Yes.

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

Is it the intention of the Government to rescind or alter the conditions contained in subsection (11), section 31, of the "British Columbia Railway Act," so that the Government may have a greater degree of control over railway rates than they have hitherto had?

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

"The subject is now under consideration."

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

1. How many applications were made for coal lands in the vicinity of *White Lake*, near *Fairview*? Also, how many applications for similar lands on *Rock Creek*, *Osoyoos*?
2. Upon what date or dates were these applications made?
3. What reason was assigned for the refusal of these applications?

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

“1 and 2.—Nine applications in the vicinity of *Rock Creek*, dated 25th May, 1896, and one in the vicinity of *White Lake*, dated 28th May, 1896. These applications were received in Victoria on 15th June and 2nd July.

“3. Refused on the ground that, following the reasoning of the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Farwell* case, the publication by the applicants of a notice of their intention to apply for a coal prospecting licence confers upon them no immediate right; and the lands in respect of which the applications are all made having been included in a railway reserve (made under special statutory authority) before the receipt by the Chief Commissioner of the applications for licences, are not any longer ‘lands held by the Crown for the benefit of the Province.’”

Ordered, That Mr. *Booth* be added as a member of the Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders, until the return of Mr. *Hunter*.

Ordered, That Mr. *Sword* be added as a member of the Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders, until the return of Mr. *Williams*.

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* presented a Return of all the travelling expenses, etc., of the Honourable the Minister of Finance in connection with the floating of the Loan of 1895, as authorised by the “British Columbia Loan Act, 1895.”

Bill (No. 1) intituled “An Act to amend the ‘Co-operative Associations Act, 1896,’” was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed to-morrow.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 2) intituled “An Act respecting Master and Servant.”

Introduced and read a first time.

Second reading on Wednesday next.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 3) intituled “An Act for the Incorporation and Regulation of Trading Companies.”

Introduced and read a first time.

Second reading on Wednesday next.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, signed by His Honour.

The said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, and is as follows :—

E. DEWDNEY,

Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith a Bill intituled “An Act to specifically correct an ambiguity in the ‘British Columbia Southern Railway Aid Act, 1894,’ by striking out the words ‘and (c)’ in line 6 of section 2, and inserting the word ‘and’ between ‘(a) (b),’ in the same line,” and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,

15th February, 1897.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole to-morrow.

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

And then the House adjourned at 3:10 o’clock, p. m.

Tuesday, 16th February, 1897.

Two o'clock, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. *S. Cleaver*.

The following Petitions were presented and laid on the table:—

By Mr. *Hume*, from *John A. Mara* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Lardeau Railway Company."

By Mr. *Semlin*, from "The Thompson River Hydraulic Mining Company," for a Private Bill to consolidate their mining leases and properties.

By Mr. *Rogers*, from *P. C. Dunlevy* and others, for a Private Bill (*re* mining the bed of *Cottonwood River*).

By Mr. *Hume*, from *Wm. H. Brandon* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Brandon Water and Light Company."

By Mr. *Rogers*, from "The Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Fields, Limited," for a Private Bill to amend their corporate Act.

By Mr. *Irring*, from *Warburton Pike*, for a Private Bill to incorporate a company (*re* railway, *Stickeen River* to *Dease Creek*).

The following Petitions were read and received:—

From *William Marion Redpath*, *Edwin Dennis Sanders*, and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate a Company *re* the supplying of water to the inhabitants of the Town of *Trail*.

From *H. T. Braydon*, *Geo. W. Willard*, *James Anderson*, and others, residents of the Town of *Trail*, in support of Private Bill *re* the supplying of water to the said town.

Mr. *Booth* presented the First Report from the Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 16th, 1897.

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 Okanagan Water-Power Company.

No. 2—The Petition of the South Kootenay Water-Power Company.

No. 5—The Petition of the West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited, in so far as the District of West Kootenay is concerned.

No. 8—The Petition of the Fairview Power, Water and Telephone Company, Limited.

No. 10—The Petition of the Cascade Water, Power and Light Company, Limited.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

The adjourned debate on the motion moved by Mr. *Macpherson* and seconded by Mr. *Forster*, as follows:—

That this House is of opinion that the authority conferred upon the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to sell lands should not apply to lands upon the sea coast and navigable arms, inlets, and rivers, as far as navigable, as it is impossible at present to say what portions of such lands may in the future be required for fishing stations; and that no applications already made, for which Crown Grants have not yet been issued, should be granted, but that leases be granted in lieu thereof, unless the applicants already have leases, in which cases their application for Crown Grants should be cancelled—
was resumed.

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* moved in amendment, seconded by the Hon. Colonel *Baker*,—

To leave out all the words after "That," in the first line, and in lieu thereof insert:—

"it is desirable for the Government to consider whether lands upon the sea-coast and upon navigable arms, inlets and rivers, so far as navigable, should not be withdrawn from sale, and that instead of sale a policy of leasing should be adopted."

The debate was further adjourned until to-morrow.

The adjourned debate on the motion moved by Mr. *Hume* and seconded by Mr. *Kennedy*, as follows:—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return showing the number of land transfers in *West Kootenay* for the year 1896—

was resumed.

Mr. *Sword* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Semlin*,—

To amend Mr. *Hume's* resolution by adding—

"(b.) The particulars of each lot so transferred:

"(c.) The amount of fees collected on such transfers."

Amendment put and carried.

Motion, as amended, put and carried.

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

Was any action taken by the Government on the finding of the Coroner's Jury on the investigation of the *Point Ellice Bridge* disaster, which occurred on the 26th May last?

If no action was taken, why were the parties responsible for such disaster not prosecuted according to law?

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

"1. No.

"2. The bearing and effect of the verdict were carefully considered, and after due deliberation it was decided that criminal proceedings instituted against any particular parties would be ineffective."

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

1. Have all railways subject to the provisions of the "British Columbia Railway Act" complied with the conditions imposed by sub-sections (9) and (10) of section 31 as to submitting tariff of tolls charged, for approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council?

2. If not, has their attention been drawn to the omission?

3. If not, why not?

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

"1. The railways subject to the provisions of the 'British Columbia Railway Act' have not submitted a tariff of tolls.

"2. Yes."

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

1. How many railway companies have transmitted to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works a statement of accidents, whether to life or property, as required by sections 71 and 72 of the "British Columbia Railway Act"?

2. The names of such railway companies.

3. Has the Chief Commissioner given directions as to the form in which returns shall be made, as directed in section 73 of said Act?

4. If not, why not?

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

"To questions 1 and 2—No returns have yet been made by any railway company.

"3. No.

"4. So far as yet no forms of return have been directed. There are only two companies which come under the 'British Columbia Railway Act'—the *Victoria and Sidney* and *Kaslo and Slocan*."

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

1. How many railways in British Columbia are subject to the provisions of the "British Columbia Railway Act;" also the names of such railway companies?

2. How many of those companies have transmitted to the Provincial Secretary the account called for by sub-section (6) of section 44 of the "British Columbia Railway Act"?

3. If any companies have not transmitted the account called for by the Act, has the Provincial Secretary drawn their attention to the omission?

4. If not, why not?

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

"1. Two—the *Victoria and Sidney* and *Kaslo and Slocan*.

"2. Neither company has done so. The date due for such return is fifteen days after the commencement of the Session.

"3. The companies have been reminded.

"4. Replied to by answer 3."

Mr. *Smith* asked leave to introduce a Private Bill (No. 5) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Cascade Water, Power and Light Company, Limited."

Leave granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Bill (No. 1) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Co-operative Associations Act, 1896,'" was committed, with Mr. *Bryden* in the Chair.

The Committee reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Leave granted for to-morrow.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Turner*, Mr. *Huff* was added as a member of the Select Standing Committee on Mines.

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

And then the House adjourned at 3:30 o'clock, p. m.

Wednesday, 17th February, 1897.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. *S. Cleaver*.

The following Petitions were presented and laid on the table:—

By Mr. *Hume*, from *Geo. Alexander* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kaslo Electric Light Company."

By Mr. *McGregor*, from *A. Haslam* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Nanaimo-Alberni Railway Company."

By Mr. *Hume*, from *Geo. Turner* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The British Columbia Power and Light Company."

The following Petitions were read and received:—

From *John A. Mara* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Lardeau Railway Company."

From "The Thompson River Hydraulic Mining Company," for a Private Bill to consolidate their mining leases and properties.

From *Wm. H. Brandon* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Brandon Water and Light Company."

From "The Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Fields, Limited," for a Private Bill to amend their corporate Act.

From *Warburton Pike*, for a Private Bill to incorporate a company (*re* railway, *Stickeen River to Dease Creek*).

Mr. Booth presented the Second Report from the Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 17th, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

That the Standing Orders in reference to the following Petitions have been complied with:—

No. 6—Petition of Revelstoke Water-Works, Electric Light and Power Company, Limited.

No. 7—Petition of Revelstoke, Trout Lake and Big Bend Telephone Company, Limited.

No. 15—Petition of Trail Water Supply Company, Limited.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

Pursuant to Order, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Message of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor transmitting Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to specifically correct an ambiguity in the 'British Columbia Southern Railway Aid Act, 1894,' by striking out the words 'and (c)' in line 6 of section 2, and inserting the word 'and' between '(a) (b),' in the same line."

The Committee reported the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That the Committee rise and report to the House a Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to specifically correct an ambiguity in the 'British Columbia Southern Railway Aid Act, 1894,' by striking out the words 'and (c)' in line 6 of section 2, and inserting the word 'and' between '(a) (b),' in the same line," and recommend the introduction of the same.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

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

That a Select Committee, composed of the Hon. the Attorney-General, the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, Mr. C. A. Semlin, and the mover, be appointed to draft an Address of Congratulation to Her Most Gracious Majesty, upon having attained to the longest reign of any Sovereign in the history of the British Empire.

Mr. Adams moved, seconded by Mr. Smith,—

Whereas there are large quantities of ore sent out of the Province for the purpose of being smelted and reduced;

And whereas the reduction of such ore in the Province would give employment to a large number of workmen, and would help business generally:

Therefore, be it *Resolved*, That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor requesting him to press upon the Dominion Government the desirability of placing an export duty on all ores going out of the country, such export duty to take effect two years from the date of this resolution.

Withdrawn with leave.

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

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return showing how many of the settlers on what are known as the "*Burnaby Small Holdings*" have complied with the conditions on which they were allowed to enter upon the lands; also, for any reports relating to these settlers and their holdings which the Government has in its possession.

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented Returns as follows :—

Correspondence with the Dominion Government resulting from the motion of February 14th, 1896, respecting the quarantine regulations at *Williams Head*.

All expenses charged against the Government in connection with the recent mission of the Hon. the Provincial Secretary to *Ottawa*.

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

That an Order of the House be granted for a return showing :—

1. The number of Certificates of Title which have been issued in the several Land Registry Offices since the "Land Registry Act" came into force.

2. The number of Certificates of Indefeasible Title which have been issued at the same offices during the same period.

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

What steps were taken in respect to a Motion of this House, passed on the 27th day of February, 1896, with regard to the protection of the banks of the *Cowichan River*?

What action was taken by the Dominion Government with respect thereto?

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

"The Resolution of the 27th day of February, 1896, with reference to the protection of the banks of the *Cowichan River*, was in due course transmitted to the Dominion Government, and acknowledged by the Secretary of State on the 25th of March following, since when no further communication in respect of the said matter has been received by this Government."

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

Why was the Log Scaling Act of 1894 rescinded during the recess?

By what authority was this done?

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

"1. Because the Act proved to be practically inoperative, by reason of the refusal of loggers and mill-owners to employ the Official Scalers, the fees collected by these Scalers for the year ending 30th June last being only \$265.43, as against \$2,742 paid to them as salary; and also for the further reason that provision for the payment of Scalers' salaries after 30th June last had not been made by the Legislature.

"2. By authority of section 22 of the said Act."

The adjourned debate on the motion moved by Mr. *Macpherson* and seconded by Mr. *Forster*, as follows :—

That this House is of opinion that the authority conferred upon the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to sell lands should not apply to lands upon the sea coast and navigable arms, inlets, and rivers, as far as navigable, as it is impossible at present to say what portions of such lands may in the future be required for fishing stations; and that no applications already made, for which Crown Grants have not yet been issued, should be granted, but that leases be granted in lieu thereof, unless the applicants already have leases, in which cases their application for Crown Grants should be cancelled—

and the amendment thereto moved by the Hon. Mr. *Martin* and seconded by the Hon. Colonel *Baker*,—

To leave out all the words after "That," in the first line, and in lieu thereof insert :—

"it is desirable for the Government to consider whether lands upon the sea-coast and upon navigable arms, inlets, and rivers, so far as navigable, should not be withdrawn from sale, and that instead of sale a policy of leasing should be adopted"—

was resumed.

On objection being taken, Mr. Speaker ruled the motion out of order, and gave the following decision thereon :—

The motion of the Hon. Second Member for Vancouver (Mr. Macpherson) asks the House to definitely instruct the Government with respect to the operation of the Land Act, in so far as the provisions of that Act deal with lands upon the sea-coast, and upon navigable rivers, etc., available for fishing stations.

The motion is important and sweeping in its scope and character, and if passed by the House must be accepted by the Government as an imperative instruction. Had the matter come before the House in the form of a Bill it would be out of order, as attacking the prerogative of the Crown, with whom the power to deal with Crown lands and to initiate legislation for the administration of the lands resides; and I am of opinion that in its present form, being mandatory in its expression and intent, the Resolution would have all the effect of a Bill, since its passage would compel the Government to bring down an amendment to the Land Act, or adopt the only alternative open to them. (*See Speaker's decisions, pages 74, 75, 77, 126, 138, and page 36, Journals of this House, 1887.*)

I rule the Resolution out of order in its present form.

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

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

Thursday, 18th February, 1897.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. *S. Cleaver*.

The following Petitions were presented and laid on the table :—

By Mr. *Cotton*, from "The Cottonwood River Alluvial Gold Mining Company," for a Private Bill to consolidate their mining leases and properties.

By Mr. *Booth*, from *William Templeton* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company."

By Mr. *Hume*, from *D. W. Moore* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kaslo, Lardeau and Duncan Railway Company."

By Mr. *Rogers*, from "The Cariboo Railway Company," for a Private Bill to amend their corporate Act.

By Mr. *Graham*, from *Charles Wilson* and others, for a Private Bill (*re* "Greenwood City and Boundary Falls Water Company").

By Mr. *Helmecken*, from "The Vancouver and Lulu Island Railway Company," for a Private Bill to amend their corporate Act.

By Mr. *Hume*, from *A. W. Jones* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Nelson Water-Works Company."

By Mr. *Irving*, from "The Kootenay Power Company," for a Private Bill to amend their corporate Act.

The following Petitions were read and received :—

From *Geo. Alexander* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kaslo Electric Light Company."

From *A. Haslam* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Nanaimo-Alberni Railway Company."

From *Geo. Turner* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The British Columbia Power and Light Company."

Mr. Booth presented the Third Report from the Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 18th, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

That the Standing Orders in reference to the following Petitions have been complied with:—

No. 16—Petition of the Lardeau Railway Company.

No. 20—Petition of the Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Fields, Limited.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

Major Mutter presented the First Report from the Printing Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
18th February, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

That the following papers were ordered to be printed:—

1. Return of all expenses charged against the Government in connection with the recent mission of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

2. Return showing the total amount and value of the output of the mines of British Columbia to 1st January, 1897.

3. Return under section 4 of the "Small Debts Act Amendment Act, 1896."

4. Papers in *re* removal of the Indians from the Songhees Reserve.

5. In *re* telegraph line and service between Victoria and Carmanah Point.

6. Papers relative to the establishing additional fish hatcheries in B. C.

7. Return under sub-section (3), section 1, of "An Act to provide for the recognition in this Province of Probates and Letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom and elsewhere"—cap. 19, 1889.

8. Return of all travelling expenses and otherwise of the Minister of Finance in connection with the floating of the Loan of 1895.

9. A detailed statement of all expenses in connection with the floating of the loan authorised by the B. C. Loan Act, 1895.

10. Return of all correspondence with the Dominion Government, resulting from the motion of February 14th, 1896, respecting the quarantine regulations at Williams Head.

All of which are respectfully submitted.

J. M. MUTTER,
Chairman of Committee.

The Report was received.

Major Mutter presented the First Report from the Public Accounts Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
17th February, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

That the following returns herewith appended are submitted:—

1. Statement of amounts paid on account Parliament Buildings construction from 1st July, 1896, to 31st January, 1897.

2. Statement, cash on hand 31st December, 1896.

3. Statement, Nakusp and Slocan Railway account, to 31st December, 1896.

4. Statement, Shuswap and Okanagan Railway account, to 31st December, 1896.

All of which are respectfully submitted.

J. M. MUTTER (*Secretary*),
Chairman, pro tem.

The Report was received.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS PAID ON ACCOUNT PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTION, FROM 1ST JULY, 1896, TO 31ST JANUARY, 1897.

F. Adams, Estate of	On account of contract for mason work	\$16,533 35	
Bennett & Wright	" " "	4,000 00	
W. Pearse	" " " (carving)	1,190 00	
Perry & Smith	" " coppersmith's work	4,700 00	
R. J. Nott	" " plumber work	467 00	
G. Jennings & Co.	" " "	588 00	
J. Bryce	" " "	507 16	
E. C. Howell	Superintendent of Works	1,200 00	
"	" "	200 00	
R. Drake	contract for plasterer's work	25,300 00	
Bishop & Sherbourne	" " carpenter "	13,200 00	
J. Boyd & Co	" " " "	274 85	
Albion Iron Works	" " iron founder's "	4,000 00	
W. McDonald	" " compensation	200 00	
D. Graham	" " fireman	350 00	
F. M. Rattenbury	" " architect's commission	2,014 70	
E. Spillman	" " painter's work	1,012 00	
R. B. McMicking	" " superintendent electric light installation	150 00	
W. Bell	" " iron railing, &c	650 00	
H. Bloomfield & Son	" " leaded lights	960 40	
G. C. Hinton	" " electric wiring	2,500 00	
D. Spencer	" " calico, &c	47 62	
			\$80,045 08

ABSTRACT OF PAYMENTS MADE ON ACCOUNT OF PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION) FROM COMMENCEMENT UP TO DATE, 31ST JANUARY, 1897.

Year ending 30th June, 1893, foundation, &c		\$ 72,846 46
" " 1894, contract, construction	\$ 55,954 13	
" " 1895, " "	191,867 97	
" " 1896, " "	257,903 33	
From 1st July, 1896, to 31st January, 1897, contract, construction	80,045 08	
		585,770 51
		\$658,616 97

Cash on hand 31st December, 1896	\$ 6,429 08
Cash in bank, "	120,209 94
Cash in hands of agents	17,620 00
Total cash on hand 31st December, 1896	\$144,259 02

NAKUSP AND SLOCAN RAILWAY ACCOUNT.

DR.		CR.	
	PAYMENTS.	RECEIPTS.	
As brought to account 30th June, 1896	\$ 84,186 35	As brought to account 30th June, 1896	\$138,951 49
For interest due 31st December, 1896	12,850 92	For quarter ending 30th September, 1896	3,052 77
" " (2nd issue)	151 84	" " 31st December, 1896	4,496 20
Balance	49,311 35		
	\$146,500 46		\$146,500 46
		By balance	\$ 49,311 35

SHUSWAP AND OKANAGAN RAILWAY ACCOUNT.

Dr.		Cr.	
PAYMENTS.		RECEIPTS.	
As brought to account 30th June, 1896. .	\$228,572 46	As brought to account 30th June, 1896. .	\$204,284 81
Payment for half-year, 31st Dec., 1896. .	24,939 00	Receipts for quarter, 30th Sept., 1896 . .	2,646 23
		" " 31st Dec., 1896	2,741 02
	\$253,511 46		\$209,672 06
To balance.	\$ 43,839 40		

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

That an Order of this House be granted for a Return showing—

(a.) The amount of timber dues collected from each mill-owner in *West Kootenay*, giving the name of each owner and amount paid by such owner :

(b.) The amounts collected from companies or private parties upon cordwood, giving name of companies and amounts paid by each :

(c.) Giving the names of collectors and amounts collected by each for the year 1896.

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

That an Order of this House be granted for copies of all correspondence, including surveyors' reports relating to any lands alienated or leased under the provisions of the "Land Act, 1896."

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

That an Order of this House be granted for all correspondence between any member of the Government and County Court Judge *Forin*, either before or after his appointment as a County Court Judge, in connection with his appointment of Stipendiary Magistrate, with the accompanying emolument of \$500 per annum, for the purpose of giving effect to the "Small Debts Act."

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

That an Order of this House be granted for a Return of all applications for coal lands at *Rock Creek* and *White Lake, East Yale*, and also of all correspondence relating thereto.

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

What steps have been taken, if any, to know that the various railways in the Province are complying with the "British Columbia Railway Act"?

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

"Railway companies have been required to file plans and books of reference of the line of their roads; to guard against the obstruction of highways and bridges; to give notice when their railways have been completed and are ready for the safe conveyance of passengers. The said railways have then been inspected by engineers appointed by the Government.

"The railway companies within the legislative authority of this Province have been furnished with copies of the 'British Columbia Railway Act,' and their attention directed to its provisions and the necessity for compliance therewith."

Mr. *Kellie* asked leave to introduce a Private Bill (No. 6) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Trail Water Company, Limited."

Leave granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act respecting Master and Servant," was read a second time. To be committed to-morrow.

Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to specifically correct an ambiguity in the 'British Columbia Southern Railway Aid Act, 1894,' by striking out the words 'and (c)' in line 6 of section 2, and inserting the word 'and' between '(a) (b),' in the same line," was read a second time.

To be committed to-morrow.

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

Statement of Commons established.

Statement of Bonds deposited in the Provincial Secretary's Office.

Statement of Collectors of Revenue paid by commission.

Copies of Regulations made under the Mining Laws of the Province.

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

And then the House adjourned at 3:30 o'clock, p. m.

Friday, 19th February, 1897.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. *S. Cleaver*.

The following Petitions were presented and laid on the table:—

By Mr. *Cotton*, from *Herbert S. Halt* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kootenay Power and Light Company."

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *J. A. Mara* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Grand Forks Water, Power and Light Company."

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from *John A. Manly* and others, residents of *Grand Forks*, supporting passage of Bill to incorporate "The Grand Forks Water, Power and Light Company."

The following Petitions were read and received:—

From "The Cottonwood River Alluvial Gold Mining Company," for a Private Bill to consolidate their mining leases and properties.

From *William Templeton* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company."

From *D. W. Moore* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kaslo, Lardeau and Duncan Railway Company."

From "The Cariboo Railway Company," for a Private Bill to amend their corporate Act.

From *Charles Wilson* and others, for a Private Bill (*re* "Greenwood City and Boundary Falls Water Company.")

From "The Vancouver and Lulu Island Railway Company," for a Private Bill to amend their corporate Act.

From *A. W. Jones* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Nelson Water-Works Company."

From "The Kootenay Power Company," for a Private Bill to amend their corporate Act

Mr. *Booth* presented the Fourth Report of the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 19th, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER :

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

That the Standing Orders in reference to the following Petitions have been complied with:—

No. 17—The Petition of the Thompson River Hydraulic Mining Company.

No. 19—The Petition of the Brandon Water and Light Company.

Your Committee beg to report with reference to the Petition of the Kaslo Electric Light Company—No. 22—that the Standing Orders have been complied with in so far as the Petition deals with so much of the application as asks for the power of generating electricity for the supply of light, power and heat, and recommend that leave be granted to bring in a Bill for those purposes.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

Major *Mutter* presented the Second Report from the Printing Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
19th February, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER :

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

That at a meeting of the above Committee held in the Private Committee Room on 18th February, 1897, the following Returns were submitted and ordered to be printed, viz:—

1. Copies of Regulations made under the Mining Laws of the Province.
2. Statement of Bonds deposited in the Provincial Secretary's Office.
3. Statement, Collectors of Revenue paid by commission.
4. Statement of Commons established.

All of which are respectfully submitted.

J. M. MUTTER,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

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

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of all papers, correspondence and reports in connection with the construction of a bridge over the *Thompson River* at *Kamloops*.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* presented a Return of copies of the case submitted to the Full Court in the following matters, viz:—

(1.) The Small Debts Act, 1895";

(2.) The "Coal Mines Regulation Amendment Act, 1890";

together with the judgments delivered therein respectively.

Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act respecting Master and Servant," was committed, with Mr. *Stoddart* in the Chair.

Bill reported complete with amendments.

Report to be considered on Monday next.

Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to specifically correct an ambiguity in the 'British Columbia Southern Railway Aid Act, 1894,' by striking out the words 'and (c)' in line 6 of section 2, and inserting the word 'and' between '(a) (b),' in the same line," was committed, with Mr. *Kennedy* in the Chair.

Reported complete without amendment.

Report adopted.

Third reading on Monday next.

Mr. *Hume* asked leave to introduce a Private Bill (No. 8) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Lardeau Railway Company."

Leave granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time and referred to the Railway Committee.

Mr. *Rogers* asked leave to introduce a Private Bill (No. 9) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Fields, Limited, Act, 1896.'"

Leave granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

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

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

The said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, and is as follows:—

E. DEWDNEY,

Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith a Bill (No. 7) intituled "An Act to establish Farmers' Institutes," and in accordance with the provisions contained in section 54 of "The British North America Act, 1867," he recommends the Bill to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,

18th February, 1897.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be referred to a Committee of the Whole on Monday next.

And then the House adjourned at 5:10 o'clock, p. m.

Monday, 22nd February, 1897.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Dr. *J. D. Wilson*.

The following Petitions were presented and received:—

By Mr. *Hume*, from *A. St G. Hammersley* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The East Kootenay Railway Company."

By Mr. *Rogers*, from *F. E. Ward*, for a Private Bill (*re Ashcroft, Kamloops and Barkerville Railway*).

By Mr. *Hume*, from "The Noble Five Consolidated Mining and Milling Company," for a Private Bill (*re Cody Creek water rights*).

By Mr. *Hume*, from *A. St G. Hammersley* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Nelson and Bedlington Railway Company."

By Mr. *Hume*, from *Frank Dick* and many others, miners and residents of *Brandon* and *Slocan City*, opposing passage of "Brandon Water and Light Company's Bill."

By Mr. *Kellie*, from *Chester Glass*, for a Private Bill (*re bridges over Columbia River at Robson and Trail*).

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from "The Victoria, Vancouver and Western Railway Company," for a Private Bill to amend their corporate Act.

By Mr. *Helmcken*, from "The Delta, New Westminster and Eastern Railway Company," for a Private Bill to amend their corporate Act.

By Mr. *Bryden*, from "The Cumberland and Union Water-Works Company, Limited," for a Private Bill for incorporation, with additional powers.

The Petition of "The Cumberland and Union Water-Works Company" presented on 10th February was withdrawn.

The following Petitions were also read and received :—

From *Herbert S. Halt* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Kootenay Power and Light Company."

From *J. A. Mara* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate "The Grand Forks Water, Power and Light Company."

From *John A. Manly* and others, residents of *Grand Forks*, supporting passage of Bill to incorporate "The Grand Forks Water, Power and Light Company."

The Hon. Colonel *Baker* presented the Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Public Schools of the Province for the year 1895-96.

The Hon. Mr. *Martin* presented a Return showing—

(a.) The amount of timber dues collected from each mill-owner in *West Kootenay*, giving the name of each owner and amount paid by such owner :

(b.) The amounts collected from companies or private parties upon cordwood, giving name of companies and amounts paid by each :

(c.) Giving the names of collectors and amounts collected by each for the year 1896.

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* presented a Report from the Select Committee appointed to draft an Address of Congratulation to Her Most Gracious Majesty, upon having attained to the longest reign of any Sovereign in the history of the British Empire, reporting an Address as follows :—

To Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India:

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:

We, the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, Your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, in Parliament assembled, beg to offer our most sincere and devoted congratulations upon your having attained in your most memorable reign to a period the most extended in the history of the vast empire over which you so graciously rule.

On the occasion of the attainment of the fiftieth anniversary of Your Majesty's reign, your subjects, the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, presented an address of congratulation, in which they expressed themselves in the following manner :—

"The many years during which Your Majesty has reigned have been marked by a progress in the arts and sciences, the extension and consolidation of British interests throughout the world, and by a policy calculated to ameliorate the conditions of the human family.

"We desire to express our profound admiration of the example afforded by Your Majesty's most noble life, which will ever be looked upon with pride by your loving subjects.

"We feel unbounded satisfaction that the capital of our Province bears the revered name of Your Most Gracious Majesty, and that it will ever be a memento of the proudest era in British history.

"We pray that the Almighty in His Providence will spare Your Majesty long to reign over us, and will bless Your Majesty with health and happiness."

We sincerely beg to renew our expression of these sentiments, which time has only served to strengthen and confirm, and to assure Your Majesty that it is with most heartfelt satisfaction and feelings of thankfulness that we have viewed throughout succeeding years the continuance of that wise policy and illustrious example which have been such potent factors in maintaining the integrity and grandeur of your empire.

We have viewed with profound satisfaction the efforts which have been made to consolidate the material and political interests of your empire, and to more closely unite the important parts of which it is composed, and we trust to see realised in the near future the anticipations of many of your illustrious statesmen, and of the greater number of your loving subjects.

We pray again that the Almighty in His Providence will spare Your Majesty long to reign over us, and bless Your Majesty with continued health and happiness.

The Report was received and adopted.

Ordered, That the said Address be engrossed and forwarded by Mr. Speaker in the usual way.

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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 20th, 1897.

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. 21—Petition of Warburton Pike.

No. 24—Petition of the British Columbia Power and Light Company.

No. 32—Petition of the Kootenay Power Company.

No. 23—Petition of Nanaimo-Alberni Railway Company.

No. 31—Petition of Nelson Water-Works Company.

No. 30—Petition of the Vancouver and Lulu Island Railway Company.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 20th, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

That with reference to the Petition of the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation Company—No. 26—your Committee finds that the Standing Orders have not been complied with, by reason of non-publication in the newspapers published in the Cities of Vancouver and New Westminster, and in the Districts of Westminster and Yale; but owing to the enterprise being presumably in the public interest, and the Petition being otherwise in order, your Committee recommends the suspension of the rules, so as to admit of the Bill being introduced.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 22nd, 1897.

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. 13—Petition of the Ferry Company.

No. 25—Petition of the Cottonwood River (B. C.) Alluvial Gold Mining Company (Foreign).

No. 27—Petition of the Kaslo and Lardeau-Duncan Railway.

With regard to Petition No. 28, of the Cariboo Railway Company, your Committee beg leave to report that the Standing Orders have not been complied with, inasmuch as only five insertions of the notice in the local newspaper were given; but the Committee recommend the suspension of the rules, so as to admit of the Bill being introduced.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 22nd, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER :

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

That in view of the large number of applications made at the present Session for water privileges, and the importance of the subject, your Committee would respectfully recommend that the Government should introduce legislation dealing with the question of the appropriation and utilisation of water.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

The Standing Rules and Orders were suspended, and the Fourth, Sixth and Seventh Reports from the Private Bills Committee were adopted.

Pursuant to Order, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the Message of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of 18th February, 1897, transmitting Bill (No. 7) intituled "An Act to establish Farmers' Institutes," with Mr. *Booth* in the Chair.

The Committee reported the following Resolution:—

Resolved, That the Committee rise and report to the House a Bill (No. 7) intituled "An Act to establish Farmers' Institutes," and recommend the introduction of the same.

Report adopted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

To be read a second time to-morrow.

On the motion of Mr. *Booth*, Private Bill (No. 10) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the West Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited," was introduced and read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

On the motion of Mr. *Helmcken*, Private Bill (No. 11) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the South Kootenay Water-Power Company," was introduced and read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

On the motion of Mr. *Helmcken*, Private Bill (No. 12) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Okanagan Water-Power Company," was introduced and read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

On the motion of Mr. *Graham*, Private Bill (No. 13) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Fairview Power, Water and Telephone Company, Limited," was introduced and read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Mr. *Walkem* moved, seconded by Mr. *Helmcken*—

That in the opinion of this House a tax upon mortgages is one which bears unduly upon different members of a community.

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

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

That an Order of the House be granted for the following Returns:—

1. A Return of all the correspondence between the Minister of Finance, or any official of the Treasury Department, and the manager of the *Vancouver World* newspaper, relative to the advertising of the Provincial tax sale in the district of *New Westminster*.

2. A Return showing the space occupied in the *World* by the said tax sale in inches and lines; the number of insertions given thereto and the rate per line for the space occupied charged and paid therefor by the Government, as well as other services rendered in connection

with the aforesaid sale in the *Vancouver World* newspaper and the *British Columbia Gazette*, as well as any correspondence which may have passed between any member of the Government, the Queen's Printer, and the manager or proprietors of the *Vancouver World*, in connection with the printing and publication of the tax sale referred to.

Mr. *Walkem* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Helmcken*,—

To add to motion after word "to" in the last line the words "also all correspondence between the officials of the Treasury and any other person in relation to the cost of advertising in the *World* in connection with the sale.

Amendment put and carried.

Original question, as amended, put and carried.

Mr. *Booth* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 14) intituled "An Act to impose certain restrictions upon the granting of Liquor Licences in Rural Districts."

Leave granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

To be read a second time on Monday next.

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

That an Order of the House be granted for a full Return of all papers and reports from any person or persons, and correspondence between any member of the Government and any other member of the Government, and between any member of the Government and any other person; also a detailed statement of money expended by the Government in connection with the *Quatsino* and *Cape Scott* colonization scheme.

On the motion of Mr. *Adams*, seconded by Mr. *Rogers*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an Order of the House be granted for a Return of the dues collected on cordwood in the different districts in the Province, as provided for in the Land Act of 1896.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* presented a Return showing the number of land transfers in *West Kootenay* for the year 1896—

"(b.) The particulars of each lot so transferred:

"(c.) The amount of fees collected on such transfers."

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

That a Select Committee, composed of Messrs. *Booth*, *Walkem*, *Stoddart*, *Forster*, and the mover, be appointed to inquire into the state of the public health in the principal centres of population, with power to call for persons and papers, and to report to this House.

The motion was negatived on the following division:—

YEAS:

Messieurs

<i>Kitchen,</i>	<i>Hume,</i>	<i>Sword,</i>	<i>Cotton,</i>
<i>Kennedy,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Semlin,</i>	<i>Graham—8.</i>

NAYS:

Messieurs

<i>Huff,</i>	<i>Turner,</i>	<i>Stoddart,</i>	<i>Rogers,</i>
<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>	<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Irving,</i>
<i>Mutter,</i>	<i>Adams,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>McGregor—15.</i>
<i>Helmcken,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Eberts,</i>	

Mr. *Hume* asked the Hon. the Minister of Mines the following questions:—

1. How many owners of mineral claims have paid into the Provincial Treasury \$100, in lieu of performing the annual amount of assessment work required by the Mineral Act?
2. What amount has *West Kootenay* contributed in lieu of assessment work?
3. What is the total amount derived from the above sources?

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

“The information asked for is not at present available, but the Treasury Department will endeavour to furnish answers after communication with the respective Mining Recorders.”

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

Is it the intention of the Government to introduce at this Session any legislation for the purpose of—

- (1.) The payment of grand jurors?
- (2.) The better care of explosives?

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

- “1. No.
- “2. The Government have it under consideration.”

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.

Tuesday, 23rd February, 1897.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Dr. *J. D. Wilson*.

Mr. *Kennedy* presented a Petition from the “Victoria Local Council of Women” (*re* amendment to Pharmacy Act).

Laid on the table.

The Hon. Mr. *Turner* presented a Return of moneys received and paid by the Official Administrators of the Province, as required by section 13 of the “Official Administrators Act, 1890.”

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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 23rd, 1897.

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 undermentioned Petitions have been complied with:—

- No. 29—Petition of Greenwood City and Boundary Falls Water Company.
- No. 33—Petition of Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited.
- No. 37—Petition of Barkerville, Ashcroft and Kamloops Railway Company.
- No. 38—Petition of Noble Five Consolidated Company.
- No. 42—Petition of Victoria, Vancouver and Westminster Railway Company.
- No. 44—Petition of Cumberland and Union Water-Works Company, Limited Liability.

The Report was received.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

Major *Mutter* presented the Second Report from the Public Accounts Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
23rd February, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

That they have the honour to submit—

1. Copies of correspondence relating to reduction of premiums on the conversion of the Loans of 1877 and 1887, and return of results thereof, submitted.

2. Return of Revenue and Expenditure for the six months ending 31st December, 1896.
 3. Return—Statement of Expenditure on account of Provincial Board of Health for six months ending 31st December, 1896.
 4. Statement of payments made on account of Guarantees for the six months (for the year) ending 31st December, 1896.
- All of which are respectfully submitted.

J. M. MUTTER (*Secretary*),
Chairman. pro tem.

The Report was received.

RETURN SHOWING THE AMOUNT OF DEBENTURES OF THE LOANS OF 1877 AND 1887 REDEEMED BY CONVERSION INTO 3 PER CENT. INSCRIBED STOCK, DURING THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1896.

	<i>Inscribed Stock.</i>
6 per cent. Debentures, Loan of 1877—£5,000 @ 125	£6,225
4½ " " " " 1887— 3,000 @ 120	3,600
Total	£9,825

The Hon. Minister of Finance to Messrs. Woolston & Beeton.

THE TREASURY,

VICTORIA, January 28th, 1896.

Messrs. Woolston & Beeton,
6a, Austin Friars, London.

GENTLEMEN,—With reference to the matter of the conversion of the British Columbia 6% and 4½% Loans (Acts 1877 and 1887) into the British Columbia 3% Inscribed Stock, I wish to state that in my opinion it is advisable that a reduction of the premiums offered for the conversion of these loans should be made. At the present time the premiums so offered are 40% and 25% respectively.

In view of the increased value of the 3% stock, and also of the comparatively short time intervening before the maturity of these loans, you will, I think, see that the above premiums are now too great to justify the Government in continuing these offers. I would, therefore, suggest that these premiums be materially reduced, and would ask you to be good enough to state your views on the matter at your earliest convenience.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) J. H. TURNER,
Minister of Finance.

Messrs. Woolston & Beeton to the Hon. the Minister of Finance.

6A, AUSTIN FRIARS,

LONDON, 14th February, 1896.

The Hon. John H. Turner,
Victoria, British Columbia.

SIR,—We have the honour to acknowledge your letter of 28th ult., and in reply we beg to say that we entirely concur in the necessity for reducing the terms of conversion offered to the 1877 and 1887 bondholders, and on receipt of a cablegram from you we will ask Messrs. Glynn, Mills, Currie & Co. to issue a new advertisement accordingly. We would suggest that the bonus to the 1877 bondholders should be reduced from 40% to 25%, and that of the 1887 bondholders from 25% to 20%. We frankly confess that the matter had escaped our notice, but the point is one of theoretical rather than practical interest, inasmuch as the outstanding bonds, as we have already explained to you, are held by insurance companies and others, who will hardly be influenced by any terms which the Government may offer. As advised you in our statement of account, only £1,100 of the 1877 Loan was converted during the half-year ending 31st December last, and only £400 of the 1887 Loan during the same period, and we think we are right in saying that no bonds have been presented since.

We have, etc.,

(Signed) WOOLSTON & BEETON.

The Hon. the Minister of Finance to Messrs. Woolston & Beeton.

TREASURY,

VICTORIA, B. C., March, 1896.

Messrs. Woolston & Beeton,

6a, Austin Friars, London, E. C.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ult., in which you suggest that the bonus offered to bondholders of the 1877 and 1887 Loans be reduced from 40% to 25% on the former loan, and from 25% to 20% on the latter; in reply thereto I cabled you to-day "Reduction proposed letter 14th agreed to." This cable message I now beg to confirm.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) J. H. TURNER,

Minister of Finance.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, AS BROUGHT TO ACCOUNT AT TREASURY, FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1896.

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
Dominion of Canada:—	I.—Public Debt:—
Half-yearly payment of interest.....\$ 14,575 53	Interest.....\$ 94,824 67
" subsidy..... 17,500 00	Sinking Fund (including interest in-
" grant per capita 39,269 20	vested), Loan Act, 1874.....
" lands conveyed. 50,000 00	Sinking Fund (Trustees Account), Loan
Land sales..... 44,465 63	Act, 1877..... 4,626 90
Land revenue..... 3,051 40	Sinking Fund (Trustees Account), inter-
Rents (timber leases)..... 27,743 04	est invested, Loan Act, 1877.....
(exclusive of land).....	Sinking Fund (Trustees Account), Loan
Survey fees..... 367 80	Act, 1887..... 4,343 18
Free miners' certificates..... 42,699 00	Sinking Fund (Trustees Account), inter-
Mining receipts, general..... 68,324 13	est invested, Loan Act, 1887.....
Licences..... 25,649 85	Sinking Fund (Trustees Account), Loan
Fines, forfeitures and fees..... 8,008 15	Act, 1891-3-5..... 23,852 53
Assay fees.....	Sinking Fund (Trustees Account), inter-
Sale of Government property..... 670 05	est invested, Loan Act, 1891-3-5.....
Reimbursements in aid..... 2,114 46	Premium and exchange..... 1,047 00
Miscellaneous receipts..... 6,110 90	Discount and commission.....
Marriage licences..... 1,895 00	Expenses in connection with Consolida-
Registered taxes..... 7 09	tion and Loan (Act, 1891).....
Revenue tax..... 33,327 00	II.—Civil Government (Salaries)..... 73,212 21
Real property tax..... 6,198 30	III.—Administration of Justice (Salaries) 64,027 96
Personal "..... 2,533 78	IV.—Legislation..... 31 80
Income tax..... 73 10	V.—Public Institutions (maintenance),
Wild land tax..... 1,445 01	Printing Office..... 7,645 67
Mineral tax..... 12,243 31	Assay Office.....
Tax sale deeds..... 10 00	Bureau of Mines..... 349 67
Printing Office receipts (5 months)..... 7,202 30	Asylum for the Insane..... 7,850 37
Probate fees..... 944 33	Museum..... 1,497 84
Law stamps..... 5,127 40	Provincial Home..... 3,710 04
Registry fees..... 23,611 17	VI.—Hospitals and Charities..... 22,025 63
Provincial Home..... 97 14	VII.—Administration of Justice (other
Timber Scalers' fees..... 59 70	than Salaries)..... 27,042 28
Bureau of Mines..... 595 00	VIII.—Education..... 113,003 63
Interest..... 10,150 64	IX.—Transport..... 4,714 00
Asylum for the Insane..... 1,466 05	X.—Rent..... 24 25
Sale of Consolidated Statutes.....	XI.—Revenue Services..... 6,843 85
Interest on investments of Sinking funds.....	XII.—Public Works:—
Timber royalty and licences..... 28,447 12	Works and Buildings..... 23,004 90
Chinese Restriction Act..... 21,312 50	Parliament Buildings..... 71,186 27
Revenue service refunds..... 59 75	Government House, Victoria..... 1,385 23
Commission on tax sales.....	Roads, Streets, Bridges & Wharves 206,975 10
Succession duty..... 2,084 31	Surveys..... 15,508 83
	XIII.—Miscellaneous..... 44,770 06
\$509,439 14	\$823,503 87

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1896.

A. T. Watt	Secretary, salary, 3 months ending 31st Dec., 1896, @ \$100	\$ 300 00
"	Petty disbursements	85
P. H. Power	Medical Health Officer, Donald, retainer fee for year ending 6th October, 1897	25 00
D. Corsan	" Trail, " "	50 00
E. J. Bowes	" Rossland, " "	100 00
W. E. Gomin	" Sandon, " "	25 00
E. H. S. McLean	" Revelstoke, " "	25 00
C. Phillipps-Wolley	Provincial Sanitary Inspector, salary, October, November and December, 1896, 3 months @ \$125	375 00
"	Provincial Sanitary Inspector, travelling expenses	65 85
A. Logan	Assistant " Nelson, 3 ds. @ \$2.50	7 50
W. Williamson	Spec'l. Con., Donald, re outbreak scarlet fever, 17 " 2.50	42 50
F. Kimpton	" " " " 17 " 2.50	42 50
"	" " " " 3 " 2.50	7 50
M. Derrah	Burning up old sewer box, Nelson, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 2.50	8 75
P. Murray	" " " 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 2.50	13 75
M. Burns	" " " 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 2.50	16 25
W. Hardcastle	" " " 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 2.50	6 25
S. L. Long	Engineer in charge, 31 days @ \$7; assistant, 4 days @ \$2.50	227 00
G. Williams	Medical services inspecting men working on ditch near Okanagan Lake head	5 00
George Soye, Indian	Messenger to Boothroyd Reserve, re Indian suffering from scarlet fever	2 00
B. C. Cold Storage Co.	Storage on 24 boxes anti-toxine	6 00
R. A. Kimpton	Sulphur for disinfecting quarantined house, re scarlet fever, Donald	1 00
A. M. Johnson	Engrossing report for Provincial Sanitary Inspector, Nelson	6 00
The Hall Mines Co.	Lime, &c., Nelson	20 70
Wisner & McKay	On account work on Government flume, Rossland	250 00
"	Balance " " "	250 00
Review Printing House	Printing sanitary regulations and notices, &c.	20 25
Rossland Miner Print. & Pub. Co.	Publishing " "	1 35
R. Chipchase	Fumigating three houses, outlying district, Victoria, after scarlet fever	15 00
		\$1,916 00

STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS MADE ON ACCOUNT OF GUARANTEES FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1896.

Shuswap and Okanagan Railway Bonds	\$24,939 00
Nakusp and Slocan	13,002 46
Victoria and Sidney	3,015 00
Pitt Meadows Dyking Commissioners' Bonds	2,400 00
Total	\$43,356 46

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

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

(1.) The total number of acres of land conveyed or alienated, or in process of conveyance or alienation, under chap. 14 of the Island Railway Act of 1884, and under all other railway aid or land grant Acts since that date:

(2.) Total number of acres now under reserve for the purpose or with the object of being conveyed or alienated under any such Act.

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

Whereas it appears that the Government of the Dominion of Canada and the Government of the Province of British Columbia have agreed to act upon the terms of the Resolution passed by this Honourable House on the 28th day of January, A. D. 1896, relative to the removal of the *Songhees Tribe* of Indians from the *Reserve* to some suitable locality :

And whereas the question submitted is of so great importance that it is desirable the Special Commission should meet for the purpose of proceeding with the reference without further delay :

Be it therefore Resolved, That a respectful Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, to request the Dominion Government to instruct their Commissioner to meet the Commissioner of the Province of British Columbia and arrange for an early appointment to proceed with the reference.

Bill (No. 1) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Co-operative Associations Act, 1896,'" was again committed, with Mr. *Bryden* in the Chair.

Reported complete with amendments.

Report adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

The Report on Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act respecting Master and Servant," was adopted.

Bill read a third time and passed.

The Order for the third reading of Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to specifically correct an ambiguity in the 'British Columbia Southern Railway Aid Act, 1894,' by striking out the words 'and (c)' in line 6 of section 2, and inserting the word 'and' between '(a) (b),' in the same line," was called.

Mr. *Helmcken* moved that the order for the third reading of the Bill be discharged, and the Bill recommitted, for the purpose of reconsidering the following proposed amendments:—

To strike out the title and insert the following in lieu thereof:—"An Act to amend the 'British Columbia Southern Railway Aid Act, 1894.'"

To strike out the whole of the preamble down to and inclusive of the word "Therefore" of the enacting clause.

That section 1 be struck out, and the following words be substituted therefor:—

"1. This Act may be cited as the "British Columbia Southern Railway Aid Act, 1894, Amendment Act, 1897."

Negatived.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Bill (No. 7) intituled "An Act to establish Farmers' Institutes," was read a second time. *Ordered* to be committed to-morrow.

The adjourned debate on the motion moved by Mr. *Helmcken*—

That an humble Address be presented by this House to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to move the Dominion Government to take into consideration the desirability of increasing the per capita tax on Chinese coming into the Dominion, and urging that in the opinion of this House three-fourths of all moneys received in British Columbia ports from the present tax, or (if such tax be increased) three-fourths of such revenue so increased should be paid to this Province, as the chief injury from the presence of the Chinese is sustained by the Province, and not by the Dominion—

was resumed.

Carried.

The adjourned debate on the motion moved by Mr. *Walken*, as follows:—

That in the opinion of this House a tax upon mortgages is one which bears unduly upon different members of a community—

was resumed.

The debate was further adjourned until Monday next.

The Hon. Mr. *Eberts* presented to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, signed by His Honour.

The said Message was read by Mr. Speaker, and is as follows:—

E. DEWDNEY,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor transmits herewith a Bill intituled "An Act to accelerate the Incorporation of Towns and Cities," and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
23rd February, 1897.

Ordered, That the said Message, and the Bill accompanying the same, be forthwith referred to a Committee of the Whole.

The House accordingly resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, with Mr. *Booth* in the Chair.

(IN THE COMMITTEE.)

Resolved, That the Committee rise and report to the House, recommending the introduction of a Bill (No. 15) intituled "An Act to accelerate the Incorporation of Towns and Cities."

The Committee reported the Resolution and the Bill.

Report adopted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

To be read a second time to-morrow.

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

And then the House adjourned at 4:50 o'clock, p. m.

Wednesday, 24th February, 1897.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Dr. *J. D. Wilson.*

Mr. *Booth* presented the Tenth Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 24th, 1897.

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 Petition have not been complied with:—

No. 18—Petition of Cottonwood River Mine.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

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

That in the opinion of this House no charter giving any right of expropriation for the purpose of building a railway or tramway, or giving power to appropriate water, should be granted without its being stipulated therein that the powers so conferred are subject to the condition that sufficient security, either in cash or approved bonds, be given within, at latest, three months after the passage of the Act, that the works authorised shall be carried out within the time and under the conditions specified in the Act.

Mr. *Forster* moved in amendment,—

To strike out the word “sufficient,” on the fourth line, and substitute therefor the word “some.”

Amendment negatived on the following division :—

YEAS :

Messieurs

<i>Kennedy,</i>	<i>Macpherson,</i>	<i>Huff,</i>	<i>Graham,</i>
<i>Hume,</i>	<i>Kidd,</i>	<i>Semlin,</i>	<i>Walkem,</i>
<i>Forster,</i>	<i>Sword,</i>	<i>Cotton,</i>	<i>McGregor—12.</i>

NAYS :

Messieurs

<i>Kellie,</i>	<i>Turner,</i>	<i>Stoddart,</i>	<i>Bryden,</i>
<i>Mutter,</i>	<i>Martin,</i>	<i>Pooley,</i>	<i>Rogers,</i>
<i>Helmcken,</i>	<i>Adams,</i>	<i>Eberts,</i>	<i>Braden—14.</i>
<i>Baker,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>		

The original motion was then withdrawn with leave.

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

That an Order of this House be granted for a detailed statement in connection with the payment of \$806.85 to the *Western World* for “publishing descriptive matter of British Columbia,” giving the dates of each payment, the title of the descriptive article, the date of publishing, and the name of the person or persons to whom the cheques were made payable or the money was paid, and copies of all vouchers in connection therewith.

Mr. *Booth* moved, seconded by Mr. *Stoddart*,—

That the Eighth Report of the Private Bills Committee be adopted.

Mr. Speaker ruled the motion out of order, as the Report exceeded the powers of the Committee, and sought to control the policy of the Government.

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

What reply has been given to the petitioners from *Shuswap-Tappan Siding* and *Notch Hill*, asking for construction of road from *Tappan Siding* to *Notch Hill* and from thence to *Shuswap*?

What was the date of such reply?

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

“Petition acknowledged to *John Mitchell*, 30th December, 1896.

“Road Superintendent instructed to report on subject of petition, 31st December, 1896.

“Copy of Road Superintendent’s report sent to *John Mitchell*, 15th January, 1897.”

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

Were tenders invited for building lock-up on *Mayne Island*?

(a.) The number of such tenders submitted?

(b.) The name of such tenderers, with amount of tender?

(c.) The name of the tenderer to whom the contract was awarded?

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

“Yes.

“(a.) Five.

“(b.) *J. W. Rudd*, \$231 ; *L. Cullinson*, \$325 ; *C. E. Beddis*, \$350 ; *Thos. Bennett*, \$405 ; *Wm. Gillespie*, \$425.

“(c.) *L. Cullinson*.”

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Eberts*, seconded by Mr. *Bryden*, it was *Resolved*,—

That the second reading of Bill (No. 3) intituled “An Act for the incorporation and regulation of Trading Companies,” be discharged, and the Bill referred to a Select Committee composed of Messrs. *Helmcken*, *Riethel*, *Cotton*, *Sword*, and the mover, to consider the same and recommend amendments thereto, and to report to this House.

Bill (No. 15) intituled “An Act to accelerate the Incorporation of Towns and Cities,” was read a second time.

To be committed to-morrow.

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

On the motion of Mr. *Helmcken*, Private Bill (No. 16) intituled “An Act to amend the ‘Vancouver and Lulu Island Railway Act, 1891,’” was introduced and read a first time and referred to the Railway Committee.

Mr. *Helmcken* presented a Petition from *Alexander Begg*, for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill *re* “Stickeen and Teslin Lake Railway Company.”

Received and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

The Petition from the “Victoria Local Council of Women” (*re* amendment to Pharmacy Act) was received.

And then the House adjourned at 5:30 o'clock, p. m.

Thursday, 25th February, 1897.

TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

Prayers by the Rev. Dr. *J. D. Wilson*.

Mr. *Booth* presented the Eleventh Report from the Private Bills Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
February 25th, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

That with regard to the Petition of *Alexander Begg*, dated the 23rd day of February, A. D. 1897, your Committee is of the opinion, after hearing the statement of the petitioner as to the reasons of the delay which caused the Petition for a Bill to be received by the House after the limit appointed for the reception of Petitions had expired, that the Standing Orders should be suspended, so as to allow of the Petition referred to in the Petition under consideration being presented, and beg leave to recommend the same accordingly.

Your Committee also beg leave to report the preamble proved of Bill (No. 9), “An Act to amend the ‘Lillooet, Fraser River and Cariboo Gold Fields (Limited) Act, 1896,’” and submit the same herewith.

J. P. BOOTH,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

The Standing Rules and Orders were suspended and the Report adopted.

Major *Mutter* presented the Third Report from the Printing Committee, as follows:—

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ROOM,
24th February, 1897.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

The Committee met on 23rd February, inst., when the following Returns were submitted and ordered to be printed:—

1. Return showing the number of land transfers in West Kootenay for the year 1896.
 2. Return of timber dues, etc., collected from each mill-owner in West Kootenay.
 3. Return, Official Administrators of the Province, intromissions.
- All of which are respectfully submitted.

J. M. MUTTER,
Chairman.

The Report was received.

Mr. *Helmcken* presented a Petition from *A. Begg* and others, for a Private Bill to incorporate the "Stikeen and Teslin Lake Railway Company."

Received.

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

That an Order of this House be granted for a detailed statement of the liability of the Province for the sum of \$22,596.14, and for which a vote was passed in the Session of 1895-96 under "Schedule B"; and also of any further liability, if any, which might have been included under the same vote.

Bill (No. 7) intituled "An Act to establish Farmers' Institutes," was committed, with Mr. *Rithet* in the Chair.

Progress reported.

Leave to sit again to-morrow.

On the motion of Mr. *Cotton*, Private Bill (No. 17) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Kootenay Power and Light Company, Limited," was introduced, read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

Bill (No. 15) intituled "An Act to accelerate the Incorporation of Towns and Cities," was committed, with Mr. *Macpherson* in the Chair.

Bill reported complete with amendments.

Report to be considered to-morrow.

Mr. *Irving* presented a Petition from "The Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company (Foreign)," for leave to present a Petition for a Private Bill (*re* railway, *Taku Inlet* to *Teslin Lake*).

Received and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

On the motion of Mr. *Kellie*, Private Bill (No. 18) intituled "An Act to Incorporate the Revelstoke, Trout Lake and Big Bend Telephone Company, Limited," was introduced, read a first time and referred to the Private Bills Committee.

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

And then the House adjourned at 5:20 o'clock, p. m.