

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

SESSION 1873-4.

Thursday, 18th December, 1873.

2 o'clock p. m.

This being the first day of the third meeting of the first Parliament of the Province of British Columbia, for the dispatch of business, pursuant to a Proclamation of His Excellency the Honorable Joseph William Trutch, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia, dated the 14th day of November, 1873.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor having entered the House at 2 o'clock p. m., took his seat on the Throne.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor was then pleased to open the Session by the following gracious Speech :—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :—

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to day, at the opening of another Session. The time is most opportune, as some matters of great Provincial importance, to which I shall allude, demand your serious attention.

Upon the failure of the Dominion Government to carry out its undertaking to commence, within the specified time, the construction of a Railway to connect the seaboard of British Columbia with the Railway system of Canada, I felt it my duty to strongly protest, on behalf of the Province, against the infraction of this most important clause of the Terms of Union. I have, nevertheless, taken care to comply with all the requirements of the Dominion Government based on the Terms, being desirous that on the side of British Columbia, every condition of the contract should be scrupulously kept.

You will deplore with me the circumstances which have delayed the beginning of a work, which, when finished, must immeasurably advance every interest of the Province.

On the recommendation, conveyed to me by Resolution, of your Honourable House, I have negotiated with the Dominion Government for the grant to the Province of a sum of money, in cash, in lieu of the guarantee in Section 12 of the Terms of Union. That Section provides for the construction of a first class Graving Dock, in the following words, "The Dominion Government shall guarantee the interest for ten years, from the date of the completion of the works, at the rate of five per centum per annum of such sum not exceeding £100,000 sterling, as may be required for the construction of a first class Graving Dock at Esquimalt." From the correspondence which will be laid before you, you will learn that the Dominion Government has agreed to submit a measure to

Parliament to carry out the proposal to advance £50,000 in lieu of the guarantee. The promise of material aid from the Admiralty is daily expected. I therefore confidently anticipate that I shall shortly be in a position to ask you to consider a provisional arrangement for the construction of this work, which, if approved, may be carried into effect early in the coming year.

The state of the interior communications of the Province deserves your attention. You will be asked to authorize the construction of a road from the mouth of the Fraser, to connect with the waggon-road at Yale; and also to open a way by which the fertile country of the Nicola and Similkameen Valleys can be reached. If you think it advisable that these, amongst other works, should be undertaken, I have made arrangements to procure from the Dominion Government the requisite capital on very favourable terms. The correspondence on this subject, will also be laid before you.

You have considered, in previous sessions, the most important matters on which it was necessary to legislate, in order to render the system which existed before Confederation conformable to the altered condition of the Province.

Amongst the many Acts which have been passed, are some which need amendment, and these in due course will be brought under your notice, as will also measures to provide for the better administration of justice.

I trust that you will think proper to authorize the prosecution of Surveys during the coming year, on an extensive scale, being satisfied that it is a policy which will materially assist the settlement of the public lands of the Province.

The Public Accounts for the greater part of the present year will at once be placed before you. The Estimates for the coming year will be submitted shortly.

In taking leave of you, gentlemen, I venture to express the earnest hope that the disappointment which we have this year experienced in the non-construction of the Railway may soon be dispelled. That British Columbia has a great future I confidently believe.

May the Almighty grant that your deliberations may tend to promote the welfare and happiness of this Province.

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

Mr. Speaker informed the House that, during the recess, he had received a notification of a vacancy which had occurred in the Assembly, by *William James Armstrong*, Esquire, having accepted the Office of Minister of Finance and Agriculture, and that he had issued a Warrant to the Registrar of the Supreme Court, to issue a new Writ to fill such vacancy, and that the Honorable *William James Armstrong* had been re-elected.

The notification, Warrant, and Certificate of re-election, were then read by the Clerk, at the Table, as follows:—

“To the Hon. James Trimble, Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Province of British Columbia.

VICTORIA, February 25th, 1873.

“SIR,—We have the honour to inform you that the Honorable *William James Armstrong* has this day vacated his seat in the Legislative Assembly; he having accepted the Office of ‘Minister of Finance and Agriculture,’ conferred upon him by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor.

“We have the honour to be,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) “GEO. A. WALKER,
“JOHN ASH.”

“To the Registrar of the Supreme Court:—

“Whereas, a vacancy has happened in the Legislative Assembly, by the Honorable *William James Armstrong* having accepted the Office of ‘Minister of Finance and Agriculture,

“Now I do hereby direct you to issue a new Writ to the Returning Officer for the District of *New Westminster*, for the Election of a Member to fill the aforesaid vacancy.

“Dated, 26th February, 1873.

(Signed) “JAMES TRIMBLE,
“Speaker.”

“SUPREME COURT, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
“REGISTRAR'S OFFICE,
“11th December, 1873.

“Whereas, *William James Armstrong*, Esquire, one of the Members for the Electoral District of ‘*New Westminster* District,’ did, on or before the 26th day of February last, accept office under the Crown, and did thereby vacate his Seat for such District in the House of Assembly,

“And, whereas, on the 3rd day of March last, a Writ for the Election of a Member to represent such District, was duly issued to *Henry Valentine Edmonds*, Esquire, the Returning Officer of the said District,

“Now I do hereby certify, that, on the 21st day of March last, the said Writ was returned to me by the said Returning Officer, with his certificate attached thereto, whereby it appears that the said *William James Armstrong*, Esquire, has been, under and by virtue of the said Writ, re-elected to be a Member of the House of Assembly, for the said District.

(Signed) “CHAS. E. POOLEY,
“Registrar, Supreme Court.”

On the motion of the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem*, seconded by the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven*,—

Resolved, That the documents referring to the election of the Honorable *William James Armstrong* to be a Member of this House, for the District of *New Westminster*, be entered on the Journals of the House.

The Honorable *William James Armstrong*, having been introduced by the Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash*, and the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem*, took the Oath of Allegiance, before *John Roland Hett*, Esquire, a Commissioner authorized by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Speaker reported that, to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy of His Honor's Speech, which was then read by the Clerk, at the table.

On the motion of the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem*, the following Bill (No. 1) intituled “An Act to extend the provisions of the ‘Coroners’ Jury Act, 1866,’ to the *Mainland* of British Columbia,” was introduced, and read the first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, 24th instant.

On the motion of the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem*, seconded by the Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash*,—

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor be taken into consideration on Monday next, the 22nd Instant.

Ordered, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, having been 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 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;

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.

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.

The Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash*, presented to the House, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Second Annual Report on the Public Schools of the Province. (*See Sessional Papers*.)

The Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash* presented to the House, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Return of Public Functionaries in the several Electoral Districts of the Province. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

The Honorable Minister of Finance and Agriculture *Armstrong*, presented to the House, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Province, for the nine months ending 30th September, 1873, with a Comparative Statement of Revenue for the entire year. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

On the motion of the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem*, seconded by the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven*—

Resolved, That the House at its rising do stand adjourned to Monday next.

And then the House adjourned.

Monday, 22nd December, 1873.

2 o'clock P. M.

The Honorable Minister of Finance and Agriculture *Armstrong*, subscribed the Oath of Allegiance.

The House proceeded to take into consideration the Speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. *Saul* moved, seconded by Mr. *Hughes*,—

1. That an humble Address be presented to His Honor, to thank His Honor for his gracious Speech at the opening of this Session, and to inform His Honor that we are prepared to give our most serious attention to the matters therein alluded to.

2. That we cannot but regret the failure of the Dominion Government to carry out its undertaking to commence, within the specified time, the construction of a Railway to connect the seaboard of British Columbia with the Railway system of Canada; but we are pleased to hear that His Honor has felt it his duty to strongly protest against the infraction of this most important clause of the Terms of Union, and has, nevertheless, taken care to comply with all the requirements of the Dominion Government based on the Terms; and we concur with His Honor, that it is desirable that on the side of British Columbia every condition of the contract should be scrupulously kept.

3. That we deplore, with His Honor, the circumstances which have delayed the beginning of a work which, when finished, must immeasurably advance every interest of this Province.

4. That we are glad to hear that, on the recommendation conveyed to His Honor by Resolution of this Honorable House, His Honor has negotiated with the Dominion Government for the grant to the Province of a sum of money, in cash, in lieu of the guarantee in Section 12 of the Terms of Union, which provides for the construction of a first class Graving Dock, in the following words:—"The Dominion Government shall guarantee the interest for ten years, from the date of the completion of the works, at the rate of five per centum per annum of such sum, not exceeding £100,000 sterling, as may be required for the construction of a first class Graving Dock at Esquimalt;" and we learn, with satisfaction, that the Dominion Government has agreed to submit a measure to Parliament to carry out the proposal to advance £50,000 in lieu of the guarantee; and, further, that material aid from the Admiralty is daily expected. We are pleased with the confident assurance given by His Honor, that he will shortly be in a position to ask us to consider a provisional arrangement for the construction of this work, which, if approved, may be carried into effect early in the coming year.

5. That we are aware that the state of the interior communications of the Province deserves our attention, and we therefore hail with pleasure the assurance that we shall

be asked to authorize the construction of a road from the mouth of the Fraser, to connect with the waggon road at Yale; and also to open a way by which the fertile country of the Nicola and Similkameen Valleys can be reached; and we are pleased to find, that should we think it advisable, that these, amongst other works, should be undertaken, His Honor has made arrangements to procure from the Dominion Government the requisite capital, on very favourable terms.

6. That having considered in previous Sessions, the most important matters on which it was necessary to legislate, in order to render the system which existed before Confederation conformable to the altered condition of the Province, our labours this Session will necessarily be light.

7. That we are aware that amongst the many Acts which have passed are some which amendment, and we are glad to learn that these in due course will be brought under our notice; as will also measures to provide for the better administration of Justice.

8. That we fully perceive the necessity of prosecuting Surveys during the coming year, on an extensive scale, being satisfied that it is a policy which will materially assist the settlement of the public lands of the Province.

9. That we thank His Honor for the promise that the Public Accounts for the greater part of the present year will at once be placed before us; and that the Estimates for the coming year will be submitted shortly.

10. That we heartily agree with His Honor in expressing the earnest hope that the disappointment which we have this year experienced in the non-construction of the Railway may soon be dispelled; and concur in the belief that British Columbia has a great future.

11. That we join in His Honor's prayer that the Almighty may grant that our deliberations may tend to promote the welfare and happiness of this Province.

The Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* presented to the House, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a copy of correspondence relative to the *Canada Pacific Railway*, the *Graving Dock*, and a *Provincial Loan*. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

The same was read by the Clerk.

Ordered to be printed.

On the motion of Mr. *Robertson*, seconded by Mr. *McCraith*,—

Resolved, That the proposed Address be discussed clause by clause.

The first, second, and third paragraphs being again read, were agreed to.

The fourth paragraph being read, on motion of Mr. *Robertson*, seconded by Mr.

McCraith,—

Resolved, That the debate be adjourned to Wednesday next.

The Standing Orders were suspended, to allow notices of motion and question to be given.

The Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash* presented to the House, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Return of Officers who have given security under the "Civil Officers Securities Act, 1872." (*See Sessional Papers.*)

Mr. *Smithe* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Agricultural Societies Incorporation Act, 1873.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on 5th January next.

Mr. *Smithe* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 3) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Married Women's Property Act, 1873.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on 5th January next.

Mr. *Smithe* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Land Act.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

And then the House adjourned, at 5.50 p. m.

Tuesday, 23rd December, 1873.

2 o'clock P. M.

In pursuance of Order, Mr. *Smith* introduced a Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to further amend the 'Land Ordinance, 1870,' and to amend the 'Land Ordinance Amendment Act, 1873.'"

Bill read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on 5th January next.

The Honorable Mr. *Humphreys* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 5) intituled "An Act to repeal the 'Land Tax Act, 1873.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on 9th January next.

The Honorable Mr. *Humphreys* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 6) intituled "An Act to repeal the 'Road Tax Extension Act, 1873.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on 8th January next.

The Honorable Mr. *Humphreys* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 6A) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Aliens' Ordinance, 1867.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced.

Ordered to be read a first time on 8th January next.

The Honorable Mr. *Humphreys* moved, the Honorable Mr. *Bunster* seconding,—
That a Select Committee be appointed to consider the expediency of altering and amending the Land Ordinances, 1870, 1872, 1873, so as to facilitate and simplify the acquisition of land, and of establishing the uniformity of a liberal free grant system throughout the Province.

The motion was withdrawn by leave of the House.

The Honorable Mr. *Humphreys* moved, the Honorable Mr. *Bunster* seconding,—

That a Select Committee be appointed to enquire into, and report upon, the announcement of the intention of the Dominion Government to withdraw the steamer *Sir James Douglas* from her present Service; and that said Committee have power to frame a petition, praying that said steamer be retained to the use of the Provincial and Dominion Governments.

The motion was withdrawn by leave of the House.

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

That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to cause to have laid before this House, a Return of all the Public Accounts of this Province; said Return to include a detailed statement of all Revenue and Receipts, and from what source; a detailed statement of all the Expenditure, to whom paid, and for what service; with comparative statements of Receipts and Expenditure, Liabilities and Assets for each year, from the 20th July, 1871, to 31st December, 1873; also, showing the financial position of British Columbia at the date of Union with Canada.

Mr. *Smith* moved, Mr. *Robson* seconding,—

That this House do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, for the purpose of agreeing to the introduction of a Bill: "An Act to amend the 'Public School Act, 1872,' and the 'Public School Amendment Act, 1873.'"

The motion was negatived on a division.

On the motion of Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Semlin* seconding, it was *Resolved*,—

That this House do resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, for the purpose of considering and agreeing to the introduction of a Bill: "An Act to amend the 'Road Tax Extension Act, 1873,' so as to reduce the taxation imposed by that Act."

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

That this House do resolve itself into said Committee on Thursday, 8th January.

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

That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to cause to have laid before this House, a detailed statement of all Revenue collected under the "Road Tax Extension Act, 1873," and the "Land Tax Act, 1873," from the 21st February, to 31st December, 1873.

On the motion of Mr. *Robson*, Mr. *Mara* seconding, it was *Resolved*,—

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, asking for Returns showing how the appropriations for *Nanaimo* District, for the year 1873, were expended.

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

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, asking for Returns shewing the number and whereabouts of locations made under the provisions of an Order in Council for Free Land Grants.

Mr. *Smith* asked the Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash* the following question:—

What steps, if any, have been taken by the Government towards carrying out the recommendation of this House, on the 7th January, 1873,—“That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that His Honor would recommend to the Dominion Government the construction of a branch line of Telegraph between *Cache Creek* and *Kamloops*, connecting the latter place with the main line?”

The Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash* replied as follows:—

“The Address was duly presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, and by him sent to the Dominion Government. The receipt of the Despatch has been acknowledged.”

And then the House adjourned at 4.15 p m.

Wednesday, December 24th, 1873.

2 o'clock P. M.

Mr. *Smith* presented a Petition from the inhabitants of *Salt Spring Island*, which was read, received, and laid on the Table.

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned Debate on the Address in reply to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech having been read, and the fourth paragraph of the proposed Address having been again read,—

Mr. *Robertson* moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. *McCreight*,—

That all words after the word "guarantee" in the fourth paragraph be struck out, and the following words be inserted in lieu thereof:—

“At the same time we beg leave to express our regret that it is not proposed to present for our consideration an alternative scheme for the construction of the Dock, so that in the event of the Parliament of Canada refusing to endorse the measure which your Excellency has been assured will be submitted to it, the commencement of this important public work may not be delayed for another year, and we beg further

to express our regret that any definite arrangement for a loan from the Admiralty is anticipated, without the conditions upon which such loan shall be obtained being first submitted to the House for its approval."

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Humphreys*, seconded by Mr. *Robson*, it was *Resolved*,—
That the Debate be adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

The Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* moved, seconded by the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven*,—

That the House at its rising do stand adjourned to the 15th January next.

By consent of the House the motion was amended by inserting the word "5th" in lieu of the word "15th."

Motion as amended carried.

The Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* presented, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Reports of Exploration of a portion of the *New Westminster District*, the *East Coast of Vancouver Island* from *Menzies Bay* to *Fort Rupert*, and of the *Cassiar District*. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

And then the House adjourned at 5.55 p. m.

Monday, 5th January, 1874.

2 o'clock p. m.

The Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* presented, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a copy of further correspondence relative to the Graving Dock. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

The Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* presented, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Report of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works of the Province, from the 1st day of January to the 30th day of November, 1873. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

The Honorable Minister of Finance and Agriculture *Armstrong* presented a Petition from the Settlers of *Sumass* and *Chilliwack*.

Laid on the Table.

The Order of the Day for resuming the adjourned Debate on the amendment proposed to the fourth paragraph of the Address in reply to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech, having been read,

And the fourth paragraph of the proposed Address, and the amendment thereto, having been again read,

The Debate was resumed.

The Amendment having been put, was lost on a division.

The fourth paragraph was agreed to.

The fifth paragraph being read—

Mr. *McCreight* moved,—

That after the words "can be reached," all the words should be struck out.

The fifth paragraph was agreed to.

The sixth to the eleventh paragraphs, inclusive, being again read, were agreed to.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, thanking His Honor for his gracious Speech at the opening of this Session.

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

The Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem*, the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven*, the Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash*, and Messrs. *Saul* and *Hughes*, with instructions to prepare and report an Address to His Honor.

The Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem*, from the Select Committee, reported an Address, which was read as follows:—

To the Honorable JOSEPH WILLIAM TRUTCH, 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 Honor for your gracious Speech at the opening of this Session.

We further respectfully inform Your Honor that we are prepared to give our most serious attention to the matters therein alluded to.

We cannot but regret the failure of the Dominion Government to carry out its undertaking to commence, within a specified time, the construction of a Railway to connect the seaboard of British Columbia with the Railway system of Canada; but we are pleased to hear that His Honor has felt it his duty to strongly protest against the infraction of this most important clause of the Terms of Union, and has, nevertheless, taken care to comply with all the requirements of the Dominion Government based on the Terms; and we concur with His Honor, that it is desirable that on the side of British Columbia every condition of the contract should be scrupulously kept.

We deplore, with His Honor, the circumstances which have delayed the beginning of a work which, when finished, must immeasurably advance every interest of this Province.

We are glad to hear that, on the recommendation conveyed to His Honor by Resolution of this Honorable House, His Honor has negotiated with the Dominion Government for the grant to the Province of a sum of money, in cash, in lieu of the guarantee in Section 12 of the Terms of Union, which provides for the construction of a first class Graving Dock, in the following words: "The Dominion Government shall guarantee the interest for ten years, from the date of the completion of the works, at the rate of five per centum per annum of such sum, not exceeding £100,000 sterling, as may be required for the construction of a first class Graving Dock at Esquimalt;" and we learn, with satisfaction, that the Dominion Government has agreed to submit a measure to Parliament to carry out the proposal to advance £50,000 in lieu of the guarantee; and, further, that material aid from the Admiralty is daily expected. We are pleased with the confident assurance given by His Honor, that he will shortly be in a position to ask us to consider a provisional arrangement for the construction of this work, which, if approved, may be carried into effect early in the coming year.

We are aware that the state of the interior communications of the Province deserves our attention, and we therefore hail with pleasure the assurance that we shall be asked to authorize the construction of a road from the mouth of the Fraser, to connect with the Waggon Road at Yale; and also to open a way by which the fertile country of the Nicola and Similkameen Valleys can be reached; and we are pleased to find, that should we think it advisable, that these, amongst other works, should be undertaken, His Honor has made arrangements to procure from the Dominion Government the requisite capital, on very favourable terms.

Having considered in previous Sessions, the most important matters on which it was necessary to legislate, in order to render the system which existed before Confederation conformable to the altered condition of the Province, our labours this Session will necessarily be light.

We are aware that amongst the many Acts which have been passed, are some which need amendment, and we are glad to learn that these in due course will be brought under our notice; as will also measures to provide for the better administration of Justice.

We fully perceive the necessity of prosecuting Surveys during the coming year, on an extensive scale, being satisfied that it is a policy which will materially assist the settlement of the public lands of the Province.

We thank His Honor for the promise that the Public Accounts for the greater part of the present year will at once be placed before us; and that the Estimates for the coming year will be submitted shortly.

We heartily agree with His Honor in expressing the earnest hope that the disappointment which we have this year experienced in the non-construction of the Railway

may soon be dispelled; and concur in the belief that British Columbia has a great future. We join in His Honor's prayer that the Almighty may grant that our deliberations may tend to promote the welfare and happiness of this Province.

The said Address being read a second time, was agreed to.

Ordered, That the Address in reply to the Speech be engrossed, and presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor by such Members as are of the Executive Council.

The Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* asked leave to introduce the following Bills:—

Bill (No. 7) intituled "An Act to facilitate the Conveyance of Real Property."

Bill (No. 8) intituled "An Act to facilitate the granting of certain Leases."

Bill (No. 9) intituled "An Act to amend the several Acts relating to Gold Mining, and to make provision for the security of Mining Property acquired in certain parts of the Province."

Bill (No. 10) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Courts Merger Ordinance (1870) Amendment Act, 1873.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bills severally introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, 8th instant.

The Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* moved—

That a Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts be appointed, to consist of the following Members: Messrs. *Armstrong*, *Robson*, *Cogan*, *Robinson*, *Hughes*, and *Semlin*, with power to enquire into all matters relating thereto.

By leave of the House, the following words were added to the motion:—

"From the 20th July, 1871, to 31st December, 1873; also, to consider the expediency of fixing the 20th July as the end of each fiscal year."

Objection being made to the names forming the Committee, the House nominated the following, viz.:—the Honorable Minister of Finance and Agriculture *Armstrong*, and Messrs. *Robson*, *Semlin*, *Hughes*, *Mara*, and *Robinson*.

The motion, as amended, was carried.

On the motion of the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem*, seconded by the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven*, it was *Resolved*,—

That a Standing Committee on Private Bills and Standing Orders be appointed, to consist of Messrs. *McCreight*, *Robertson*, *Mara*, *Walkem*, *Booth*, and *Bunster*.

On the motion of Mr. *Mara*, seconded by Mr. *Todd*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that copies of all correspondence between the Government and the late Gold Commissioner at *Kootenay*, relating to the dismissal of the Gold Commissioner and the Constables, be laid before this House.

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

That an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that copies of all correspondence between the Government and the Board of Education, relating to the selection of a site for a Central Boarding School, be laid before this House.

On the motion of Mr. *Booth*, seconded by Mr. *Smithe*, it was *Resolved*,—

That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that a Return may be made to this House, showing the number of persons added to the list of voters throughout the Province, during the years 1872 and 1873; the number struck off, and the number at present on the list; also, the amount of expenditure incurred on account of Registration during that time.

On the motion of Mr. *Hunter*, seconded by Mr. *Barnston*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, asking for Returns, showing in what manner the sum of \$1,500, appropriated for prospecting in *Omineca*, has been expended; also, for copies of all correspondence in reference to such expenditure.

On the motion of Mr. *Mara*, seconded by Mr. *Robson*, it was *Resolved*,—

That, whereas the mining camps of *Wild Horse* and *Perry Creeks*, owing to their isolated position and close proximity to the American border, cannot rely on protection from this Province in case of an attack by Indians; and whereas the Blackfeet and other hostile tribes of Indians are frequently camped in the District; and whereas there is a feeling of insecurity in the minds of the Farmers of the District, which greatly retards settlement; *Resolved*, That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will urge upon the Dominion Government the immediate necessity of carrying out the recommendation of the late Adjutant-General *Ross* by establishing a Military Post in or near the *Kootenay* District.

On the motion of Mr. *Duck*, seconded by Mr. *Hughes*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, asking for Returns of all expenses incurred by the Government Printing Establishment, from the 1st of January, to the 31st December, 1873; said Returns to state nature and class of all and every kind of work that has and may be done by said plant.

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

That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to cause to have laid before this House, a return of all Roads, Bridges, Trails, and other public works, built or repaired in this Province, from the 20th July, 1871, to 31st December, 1873; said return to include a detailed statement of all costs and charges connected with such works, shewing the amount paid to each person, and for what service.

Mr. *Mara* asked the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* the following question :—

What steps, if any, were taken by the Government towards carrying out the pledge made last Session, that a County Court Judge would be sent to *Kootenay*, to reside there at least six months in the year?

The Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* replied as follows :—

“Repeated applications have been made to the Dominion Government since last Session, for an Order in Council defining the position of the County Court Judges—or, as these gentlemen are designated by the Dominion Parliament ‘Stipendiary Magistrates’—of the Province. No answer, other than an acknowledgment of the receipt of the Despatches, or a promise that the subject would be considered, has been received. A Bill on this matter will be submitted to the House this Session.

“In connection with the above, I beg to refer the Honorable gentleman to the *Gazette* of the 18th August last.”

Mr. *Hunter* asked the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* the following question :—

Does the Government intend soon to take the necessary steps to legalize the acts of the Provisional Gold Commissioner (*Rath*) appointed last Fall by the miners of *Cassiar*?

The Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* replied as follows :—

“A Bill is now before the House for the purpose.”

Mr. *Hunter* asked the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* the following question :—

Is it the intention of the Government to make provision in the Estimates for opening communication between the *Yale-Cariboo* Road and the *Cassiar* gold mines?

The Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* replied as follows :

“The Government have the matter under their consideration.”

Mr. *Hunter* asked the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* the following question :—

Did the Government intend that the Charter lately given for a Ferry across the *Fraser River* at *Quesnelle*, should secure exclusive rights of ferriage?

The Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* replied as follows :

“Yes, subject to the qualification stated in the Charter itself, viz:—‘So far as the Crown hath power to grant the same, but no further.’”

Mr. *Hunter* asked the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* the following question :—

What is the date of renewal of the Charter for the Bridge at *Forks of Quesnelle*;

also, the date of the receipt by the Government of a Petition from the residents of the District, against such renewal?

The Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* replied as follows:

"Application for renewal of Charter was made on the eighth, and was duly reported to the Government on 30th January, 1873.

"A promise was made, shortly afterwards, that the Charter would be renewed, but from pressure of business (the House being in Session) the draft of renewal was not made out until the 18th March, 1873. This renewal was strongly recommended by *H. M. Ball, Esq.*, Stipendiary Magistrate of the District.

"The Petition referred to, was received on the 12th March, 1873."

Mr. *Robertson* asked the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* the following question:—

When the Government intend to erect a Lock-up in *Esquimalt* town?

The Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* replied as follows:

"The Government have the matter under their consideration."

And then the House adjourned at 5.10 p. m.

Tuesday, 6th January, 1874.

2.15 o'clock p. m.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 1) intituled "An Act to extend the provisions of the 'Coroners' Jury Act, 1866,' to the *Mainland* of British Columbia," was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Hughes*, Chairman of the Committee, reported the Bill complete without amendment.

Report adopted.

Ordered That the Bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Agricultural Societies Incorporation Act, 1873,'" was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Saul*, Chairman of the Committee, reported the Bill complete with amendments.

Ordered, That the Report be considered on Thursday, 8th instant.

The second reading of Bill (No. 3) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Married Women's Property Act, 1873,'" was postponed until Friday, 9th instant.

The Order of the Day, for the second reading of Bill (No. 4) intituled "An Act to further amend the 'Land Ordinance, 1870,' and to amend the 'Land Ordinance Amendment Act, 1873,'" having been read,

On the motion of the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem*, seconded by Mr. *Smithe*,
Resolved,—

That this Bill be *not* now read a second time, but that the same be referred to a Select Committee, with instructions to report upon the Land Laws of the Province generally; and to draft any Act or Acts necessary for the improvement thereof, with power to send for persons, books and papers; said Committee to consist of Messrs. *Semlin, Smithe, Robson, Hunter, Humphreys, McCreight, Hughes*, and the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven*.

And then the House adjourned at 3.35 p. m.

Wednesday, January 7th, 1874.

2 o'clock P. M.

Mr. *Smith* moved, Mr. *McCreight* seconding,—

That a humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to recommend to the Dominion Government the necessity of having a Military Post established at *Kamloops*, or some central section of the *Yale-Lytton* District.

The motion was withdrawn by leave of the House.

On the motion of Mr. *Robson*, seconded by Mr. *Hunter*, it was *Resolved*,—

That whereas the recent discovery of rich and extensive Gold Mines in the northern portion of the Province has greatly increased the importance and urgency of having the Boundary between *British Columbia* and *Alaska* properly established and defined, and

Whereas the boundary of the thirty-mile belt of American Territory running along a part of the seaboard seriously affects vital questions bearing upon navigation and commerce: be it therefore *Resolved*,—

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, recommending him to urge upon the Federal Government the necessity of taking immediate steps for having the said boundary properly established and defined.

Mr. *Robertson* moved, seconded by Mr. *McCreight*,—

That it is, in the opinion of this House, expedient, for the benefit of the Justices of the Peace and Land Recorders throughout *British Columbia*, that the decisions of the Supreme Court should be published in the Government Gazette.

Mr. *Barnston* moved in amendment, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Humphreys*,—

That all the words after "expedient" be struck out, and the following be inserted in lieu thereof:—"that all decisions of the Supreme Court, in Civil cases, be reported and published."

A point of Order having arisen, Mr. Speaker reserved his decision thereon until to-morrow.

Mr. *Smithe* asked the Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash* the following question:—

Why is it that the Resolution passed last Session, asking to have certain additional Polling Places appointed in the Electoral District of *Cowichan* has not been literally complied with?

The Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash* replied as follows:—

"Because, after a careful consideration of the Resolution, the Government concluded that the wants of the District would be fairly met by the establishment of a Polling Place at *Maple Bay*, the central place indicated."

Mr. *Smithe* asked the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* the following question:—

How is it that, according to the showing of the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works' Report, the Government have appropriated and expended outside of *Cowichan* District, a certain sum of money that was voted by this House for expenditure in *Cowichan* District?

The Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* replied as follows:

"The Honorable gentleman is mistaken. Such is not the case; and I must request him to refer to page 25 of the Chief Commissioner's Report of 1873."

Mr. *Robson* asked the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* the following question:—

Is it the intention of the Government to remove the Reservation placed in July last upon a twenty-mile belt of land between *Esquimalt* and *Seymour Narrows*?

The Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* replied as follows:—

"Not at present."

And then the House adjourned at 3.45 p. m.

Thursday, 8th January, 1874.

2 o'clock P. M.

Mr. *Semlin* asked leave to introduce Bill (No. 11) intituled "An Act respecting the management of Boarding Schools."

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, 15th instant.

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* asked leave to introduce the following Bills:—

Bill (No. 12) intituled "An Act respecting Ferries."

Bill (No. 13) intituled "An Act to facilitate and explain the remedies of Creditors against the Lands of their Debtors."

Bill (No. 14) intituled "An Act to provide for the more speedy payment of Taxes due on Real Estate in Vancouver Island."

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bills severally introduced, and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Monday, 12th instant.

Mr. *Smith* moved, seconded by Mr. *Robinson*,—

That whereas the subsidy of \$48,000 is about to be capitalized for a certain lump sum of money; and whereas it is expedient for this House to understand the actual financial position of this Province before capitalizing said subsidy:—

Therefore, be it *Resolved*, That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to cause to have laid before this House a summary Statement of the financial position of this Province on the 31st of December, 1873.

By leave of the House, the motion was amended, by striking out all the words before the words "That an humble Address."

Motion, as amended, carried.

Mr. *Hunter* asked the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven*, the following question:—

What was the date and nature of a certain promise, in accordance with which the Charter for Bridge at *Forks of Quesnelle* was renewed, against the expressed wishes of the people of that District?

The Honorable Mr. *Beaven* deferred his answer until to-morrow.

Mr. *Duck* asked the Honorable Attorney-General *Walkem* the following question:—

Is it the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill to amend the "Jurors' Fees Act," so that all Jurors summoned and actually attending Court shall be entitled to the same fees and allowances?

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* replied as follows:—

"It is not the intention of the Government to introduce such a measure."

Mr. *Robson* asked the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works *Beaven* the following question:—

Under what authority were lands situate in the *Quamichan* District, and, consequently within the Railway Reserve, sold to settlers subsequently to the reservation being made?

The Honorable Mr. *Beaven* replied as follows:—

"Land has been sold subsequent to the Railway Reservation, to actual Settlers, in *Quamichan* District, who had no pre-emption record of the land, and amongst these were *John McLay* and *Alexander Blythe*, by Order in Council."

The Honorable Provincial Secretary *Ash* presented to the House, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Return of all Correspondence, between the Government and the Board of Education, relating to the selection of a site for a Central Boarding School. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

Ordered to be printed.

Pursuant to Order, the Honorable Mr. *Humphreys* moved the second reading of Bill (No. 6) intituled "An Act to repeal the 'Road Tax Extension Act, 1873.'"

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

That, while admitting the right of any Member to introduce a Resolution affirming any principle he may consider expedient, we are of opinion that the introduction of Bills providing for the repeal of any Tax ought to emanate from the Government.

The Motion was ruled out of Order.

Mr. *Robertson* moved, in amendment to the motion of the Honorable Mr. *Humphreys*, seconded by Mr. *Cogan*,—

That the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

Motion, as amended, carried on the following division:—

YEAS:

Messieurs

<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Robinson,</i>	<i>Hughes,</i>	<i>Cogan,</i>
<i>Armstrong,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>	<i>Duck,</i>	<i>Holbrook,</i>
<i>Beaven,</i>	<i>Todd,</i>	<i>McCreight,</i>	<i>Robertson.—15.</i>
<i>Ash,</i>	<i>Barnston,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	

NAYS:

Messieurs

<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Mara,</i>	<i>Bunster,</i>	<i>Saul,</i>
<i>Semlin,</i>	<i>Robson,</i>	<i>Humphreys,</i>	<i>Smithe.—8.</i>

The first reading of Bill (No. 6A) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Aliens Ordinance, 1867,' " was postponed until Monday, 12th instant.

Pursuant to Order, Mr. *Smith* moved,—

That the House now go into Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of considering and agreeing to the introduction of a Bill: "An Act to amend the 'Road Tax Extension Act, 1873,' so as to reduce the taxation imposed by that Act."

Motion negatived on the following division:—

YEAS:

Messieurs

<i>Robinson,</i>	<i>Semlin,</i>	<i>Robson,</i>	<i>Bunster</i>
<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Mara,</i>	<i>Humphreys,</i>	<i>Saul.—8.</i>

NAYS:

Messieurs

<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>	<i>Hughes,</i>	<i>Cogan,</i>
<i>Armstrong,</i>	<i>Todd,</i>	<i>McCreight,</i>	<i>Holbrook,</i>
<i>Beaven,</i>	<i>Barnston,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Robertson.—13.</i>
<i>Ash,</i>			

The Order for the Committee was discharged.

And then the House adjourned, at 5.15 p. m.

Friday, 9th January, 1874.

2 o'clock P. M.

The Honorable Mr. *Armstrong* presented, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Return of the amount of Wild Land Tax collected and brought to account for the year 1873; and, also, a Return of the amount of Road Tax collected and brought to account for the year 1873. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

On the motion of Mr. *Hunter*, seconded by Mr. *Barnston*, it was *Resolved*,—

That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, asking that copies of all documents and correspondence in reference to a Charter, now, or about to be, given to *William Moore*, for a Trail from the Head of Navigation on *Stickeen River* to *Dease's Lake*, be laid before this House.

On the motion of Mr. *Holbrook*, seconded by Mr. *Booth*, it was *Resolved*,—

That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to cause to be laid before this House, returns of the amount paid for road tax on the timber leases in the District of *New Westminster*, and by whom paid.

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

That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to cause to be laid before this House, returns of the land granted for timber leases, to whom, and when leased, and where situated in the Province.

By leave of the House, the motion was amended by striking out the words "to whom, and" and the word "Province," and by adding the words "several Districts of the Province."

Motion, as amended, put and carried.

On the motion of Mr. *Holbrook*, Mr. *Booth* seconding, it was *Resolved*,—

That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to cause to be laid before this House, returns of the Town lots and land belonging to the Dominion Government, which have been transferred to them in accordance with the Terms of Confederation, or for public works and buildings, in the District of *New Westminster*.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. *Bunster*, seconded by Mr. *Robson*, it was *Resolved*,—

That a Petition of this House be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he may be pleased to ask the Dominion Parliament to have the steamboat carrying the Mails on the East Coast, call at *North Saanich* as a matter of convenience to the Settlers of said District and others, for carrying their produce to market, and also for the convenience of Passengers from *Nanaimo*, *Cowichan*, and other places.

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* delivered to Mr. Speaker a Message from His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, signed by His Honor.

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

JOSEPH W. TRUTCH.

Mr. Speaker and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I thank you for your dutiful and loyal Address, and I am pleased with the assurance that the important measures which shall be committed to your charge will receive your earnest consideration and attention.

Mr. *Hughes* moved, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Armstrong*,—

That whereas there being no public or private place of interment for the dead at *Burrard Inlet*, and the importance of that place rendering it necessary that some place be set apart as a Cemetery: therefore, be it *Resolved*,—

That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient and necessary that a suitable piece of land be set apart from some of the Public Lands on *Burrard Inlet*, for Cemetery purposes, and the management of the same be entrusted to a Committee, to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

By leave of the House, the motion was amended by striking out the words "a Committee," and inserting the word "Trustees" in lieu thereof, and by striking out the words "in Council."

Motion, as amended put, and carried.

Mr. *Hughes* moved, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Armstrong*,—

That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient and necessary that the management of the Public Cemetery on the *New Westminster* and *Hastings Road* be vested in a Committee, to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council; the powers and

functions of such Committee to cease in the event of the boundaries of the Municipality of the City of *New Westminster* being extended so as to include said Cemetery within the limits of the said Munteipality.

By leave of the House, the motion was amended, by striking out the words "a Committee," in the third line, and inserting the word "Trustees," in lieu thereof; by striking out the words "in Council," in the third line, and by striking out the word "Committee," in the fourth line, and inserting the word "Trustees," in lieu thereof.

Motion, as amended, put and carried.

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

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, asking for Returns, showing what homesteads have been registered under the Homestead Law now in force, and that formerly in force on *Vancouver Island*.

Mr. Speaker gave his decision, that the motion of Mr. *Robertson*, as to the publication of the decisions of the Supreme Court, and Mr. *Barnston's* amendment thereto, were both in order.

The Amendment was amended, by adding the words, "in the Government Gazette," at the end thereof.

The Amendment was put and lost.

The Original Motion was put and carried.

Mr. *Hunter* asked the Honorable Mr. *Beaven* the following question:—

What was the date and nature of a certain promise, in accordance with which the Charter for Bridge at *Forks of Quesnelle* was renewed, against the expressed wishes of the people of that District?

The Honorable Mr. *Beaven* replied as follows:—

"The promise was a verbal one, given by me in the early part of February, 1873, as Head of the Department, and was subsequently confirmed by Order in Council."

Pursuant to Order, the Honorable Mr. *Humphreys* moved the second reading of Bill (No. 5) intituled "An Act to repeal the 'Land Tax Act, 1873.'"

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* moved, in amendment, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Beaven*,—

That the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

Motion, as amended, put and carried.

The second reading of Bill (No. 3) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Married Women's Property Act, 1873,'" was postponed until Monday, 12th instant.

The Honorable Mr. *Ash* presented to the House, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Return of all correspondence between the Government and the late Gold Commissioner at *Kootenay*, relating to the dismissal of the Gold Commissioner and the Constables; and, also, a Return of all expenses incurred by the Government Printing Establishment, from the 1st January, to the 31st December, 1873, stating the nature and class of all and every description of work that has or may be done by said plant. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

Ordered to be printed.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 7) intituled "An Act to facilitate the Conveyance of Real Property" was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Hughes*, Chairman of the Committee, reported the Bill complete.

Report adopted.

Ordered, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 8) intituled "An Act to facilitate the granting of certain Leases," was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Saul*, Chairman of the Committee, reported the Bill complete.

Report adopted.

Ordered, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 10) intituled "An Act to amend the Courts Merger Ordinance (1870) Amendment Act, 1873," was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Hunter*, Chairman of the Committee, reported the Bill complete.

Report adopted.

Ordered, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 9) intituled "An Act to amend the several Acts relating to Gold Mining, and to make provision for the security of Mining Property acquired in certain parts of the Province," was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Hughes*, Chairman of the Committee, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered, That leave be granted for Monday, 12th instant.

And then the House adjourned at 5.20, p.m.

Monday, 12th January, 1874.

2 o'clock p. m.

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

That, in the opinion of this House, the answer of the Honorable Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works to my question regarding the expenditure of money voted for *Cowichan* District, outside of that District, is not satisfactory.

The motion was withdrawn by leave of the House.

Mr. *Robson* moved, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Bunster*,—

That the House go into Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of considering the following Resolution:—

Whereas, under the existing system of taxation, the Chinese residents of the Province do not contribute their just and equitable quota towards the public revenue; and, whereas, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient that a per capita tax should be imposed upon such Chinese residents, be it therefore,

Resolved, That a respectful Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that a Bill for the foregoing purpose be sent down during the present Session.

By leave of the House, the motion was amended by inserting the words "on Thursday next," after the word "Whole," in the first line.

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* moved an Amendment, which was withdrawn by leave of the House.

Mr. *Robertson* moved the Previous Question, which was put and carried.

Mr. *Smith* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 15) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Public Schools Act, 1872.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, 15th instant.

Mr. *McCreight* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 16) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Legal Professions Act, 1863.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Thursday, 15th instant.

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

That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, asking him to favourably consider the abrogation of the Road Tax, as far as it affects Pastoral Leases.

Mr. Speaker ruled the motion out of Order.

And then the House adjourned at 5, p.m.

Tuesday, 13th January, 1874.

2 o'clock P. M.

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

That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying His Honor to recommend to the Dominion Government the expediency of establishing a semi-monthly mail between the *Okanagan Mission* and the *O'Keefe Post Office*, at the head of the Lake; also, a semi-monthly mail in the *Nicola Valley*, between *Clapperton's Post Office* and the *Moore Bros.*, at the head of the *Nicola Lake*.

Mr. *Robson* moved, seconded by Mr. *Smithe*,—

That, in the opinion of this House, it is highly desirable that the twenty-mile belt of land reserved for Railway purposes, between *Esquimalt* and *Seymour Narrows*, be at once thrown open for settlement; and that a respectful Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, recommending that the reservation be removed.

Mr. *Robertson* moved, in amendment, seconded by Mr. *McCreight*,—

That all the words after "House" in the first line be struck out, and the following be inserted:—

"In view of the duty and importance of this Province faithfully doing and observing all that may be required by the Terms of Union to be done and observed by her, in order to entitle her to the prompt and faithful performance by *Canada* of her part of the said Terms, that the twenty-mile belt of land reserved for Railway purposes between *Esquimalt* and *Seymour Narrows*, be still kept as a reserve."

On the motion of Mr. *Robson*, the Debate on the Amendment was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

The Honorable Mr. *Humphreys* moved, the Honorable Mr. *Bunster* seconding,—

That a Select Committee be appointed, to enquire into and report upon the present mode of granting Pastoral and Timber Leases, with power to call for persons and papers; such Committee to consist of Messrs. *Semlin*, *Saul*, *Hughes*, *Mara*, *Smithe* and *Humphreys*.

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* moved, in Amendment,—

That all the words after "That" be struck out and the following be substituted:—

"The mode of granting Pastoral and Timber Leases be referred to the Select Committee on the Land Laws, for Report."

Amendment and Motion, as amended, put and carried.

The Honorable Mr. *Bunster* asked the Honorable Mr. *Ash* the following question :—
Why it was he reduced the premium on Wolves and Panthers from \$10 to \$5 per head ?

The Honorable Mr. *Ash* replied as follows :—

“The premium on the destruction of Wolves and Panthers was reduced by an Order in Council, because it was considered excessive.”

Mr. *Robertson* asked the Honorable Mr. *Beaven* the following question :—

Whether the Government has set apart, by way of reserve, any of the public lands for the purpose of affording a site for the erection, at some future time, of a Provincial University, and endowing the same.

The Honorable Mr. *Beaven* replied as follows :—

“Not as yet, but the Townships surveyed this season are being mapped as speedily as possible, after which claims to the different quarter sections will be adjusted ; the Government will then be in a position to make reservations for educational purposes, including a Provincial University, in accordance with the *Manitoban* system.”

The Honorable Mr. *Ash* presented, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Return of all Fees received during the year 1871 and the expired part of the year 1872 by the Registrars of the Supreme Court, for their own use and benefit ; also Returns of the amount of Fees paid and taken into the Supreme Court, the Court of Chancery, the Court of Bankruptcy, the Probate Court. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

The Honorable Mr. *Beaven* presented, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Return showing the number of Locations made under the provisions of an Order in Council for Free Land Grants. (*See Sessional Papers.*)

And then the House adjourned at 6 p. m.

Wednesday, 14th January, 1874.

2 o'clock P. M.

Mr. *Booth* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 17) intituled “An Act to provide for the Qualification and Registration of Voters.”

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday, 21st instant.

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

That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient that the Road Tax should be altered from a four cents per acre tax, to an ad valorem tax.

On the motion of Mr. *Robson*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Bunster*, it was *Resolved*,—

That the Resolution be referred to Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the laws relating to the Road Tax, on Thursday, the 15th instant.

Mr. *Smithe* moved, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Bunster*,—

Whereas the Dominion Government have not fulfilled the contract entered into with this Province, in not having commenced the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway ; and whereas the people of this Province, particularly that portion resident on the *East Coast of Vancouver Island*, have in consequence suffered a large amount of injury :

Be it therefore Resolved, That a respectful Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will be pleased to cause to be presented to the

Dominion Government a claim for indemnification for losses sustained, directly and indirectly, by the people of this Province up to the date of presentation; and that he cause to be presented a further definite claim for a certain per diem allowance for demurrage for every day the Dominion Government shall thereafter still delay the commencement of said Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Ash*, moved the Previous Question, which was put and carried.

Pursuant to Order, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (No. 9) intituled "An Act to amend the several Acts relating to Gold Mining, and to make provision for the security of Mining Property acquired in certain parts of the Province."

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Hughes*, Chairman of the Committee, reported the Bill complete with amendments.

Ordered, That the Report be considered on Thursday, 15th instant.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 12) intituled "An Act respecting Ferries" was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed on Thursday, 15th instant.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 13) intituled "An Act to facilitate and explain the remedies of Creditors against the Lands of their Debtors" was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Saul*, Chairman of the Committee, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered, That leave be granted for Thursday, 15th instant.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 14) intituled "An Act to provide for the more speedy payment of Taxes due on Real Estate in *Vancouver Island*" was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed on Thursday, 15th instant.

Pursuant to Order, the Report on Bill (No. 2) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Agricultural Societies Incorporation Act, 1873'" was considered.

Report adopted.

Ordered That the Bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass.

And then the House adjourned at 5.05, p.m.

Thursday, 15th January, 1874.

2 o'clock P. M.

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 18) intituled "An Act to make provision for the better Administration of Justice."

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced.

Ordered to be read a first time on Monday, 19th instant.

On the motion of Mr. *Robson*, seconded by Mr. *Semin*, it was *Resolved*,—

That this House go into Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the laws relating to the Road Tax.

Mr. *Hughes*, Chairman of the Committee, reported that the following motion "That in the opinion of this Committee it is desirable that the Road Tax laws should be so

amended as to exempt lands from the operations thereof; and that an Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that a Bill may be sent down for that purpose" had been proposed in the Committee; that he had ruled the same in Order and that an appeal had been made from his ruling; and that he was instructed to ask leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. Speaker ruled the motion out of Order, the judgment of the House upon the question having already been expressed in the present Session.

Ordered, That the Committee have leave to sit again.

Mr. *Hughes*, from the Committee, reported that the following motion "That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will be pleased to send down to this House a Bill that shall repeal the present four cents per acre Road Tax, and impose in lieu thereof an ad valorem tax" had been proposed in the Committee; that he had ruled the same out of Order and that an appeal had been made from his ruling; and that he was instructed to ask leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. Speaker ruled the motion out of Order, the judgment of the House upon the question having already been expressed in the present Session.

Ordered, That the Committee have leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Order, the Debate on Mr. *Robertson's* Amendment to Mr. *Robson's* motion relative to the Railway Reserve was resumed.

Amendment put and carried, on the following division:—

YEAS:

Messieurs

<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Robinson,</i>	<i>Hughes,</i>	<i>Cogan,</i>
<i>Armstrong,</i>	<i>Hunter,</i>	<i>Duck,</i>	<i>Saul,</i>
<i>Beaven,</i>	<i>Todd,</i>	<i>McCraith,</i>	<i>Mara,</i>
<i>Ash,</i>	<i>Barnston,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Smith,</i>
<i>Semlin,</i>	<i>Robson,</i>	<i>Humphreys,</i>	<i>Robertson.—20.</i>

NAYS:

Messieurs

<i>Bunster,</i>	<i>Holbrook,</i>	<i>Smithe.—3.</i>
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Motion, as amended, put and carried.

Pursuant to Order, the Report on Bill (No. 9) intituled "An Act to amend the several Acts relating to Gold Mining and to make provision for the security of Mining Property acquired in certain parts of the Province" was considered.

Report adopted.

Ordered, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass.

Pursuant to Order, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (No. 12) intituled "An Act respecting Ferries."

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Hughes*, Chairman of the Committee, reported the Bill complete, with Amendments.

Ordered, That the Report be considered on Monday, 19th instant.

And then the House adjourned at 5.15, p.m., until Monday, 19th instant.

Monday, 19th January, 1874.

2 o'clock P. M.

The Honorable Mr. *Armstrong* presented, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Return of the amount paid for Road Tax on Timber Leases in the District of *New Westminster*. (See *Sessional Papers*.)

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

That a respectful Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that copies of all correspondence, relating to the loss of the Lattice Bridge over *Nanaimo River*, be laid before this House.

Mr. *Duck* moved, seconded by Mr. *Barnston*,—

That the vote of this House, of the 8th of January, instant, that the Act intituled "An Act to Repeal the 'Road Tax Extension Act, 1873,'" be read this day six months, be rescinded.

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* moved in amendment, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Beaven*,—

That the following words be added to the original motion:—

"With a view of considering the propriety of taking off the Tax upon Pastoral Leases."

The Amendment was withdrawn by leave of the House.

Original Motion put and carried.

Mr. *Smithe* asked the Honorable Mr. *Walkem* the following question:—

Is it the intention of the Government to take any action towards complying with the prayer of those Electors of *Salt Spring Island*, whose Petition now lies on the Table of this House, and which asks to have the Letters Patent creating *Salt Spring* a Municipality cancelled?

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* replied as follows:—

"No. The relief asked for is properly the subject of a Private Bill."

Mr. *Hunter* asked the Honorable Mr. *Beaven* the following question:—

What is the reason that certain applications for Crown Grants, under the "Gold Mining Amendment Act, 1873," have been refused, while complying fully with the requirements of said Act?

The Honorable Mr. *Beaven* replied as follows:

"The reasons are various. In some cases applications were received before survey was made; in others, the field notes were incomplete; and, in others, the notes are being plotted, and the Grants will be issued as soon as prepared."

Mr. *Barnston* asked the Honorable Mr. *Walkem* the following questions:—

1. When the Government intend appointing a Gold Commissioner for the *Cassiar* Mines?

2. Whether it is their intention to send a properly qualified, skilled, and thoroughly experienced Officer in that capacity?

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* replied as follows:—

"Yes."

Mr. *Holbrook* asked the Honorable Mr. *Walkem* the following question:—

That, whereas (as reported in the *Standard* of this morning) a Bill is before the *Washington Territory* Legislature, sitting at *Olympia*, asking permission for *Thurston County* to issue bonds for the construction of a Railway from *Burrard Inlet* to join the Northern Pacific at *Tenino*, which will pass through *New Westminster*; I will ask, for information, the Honorable the Attorney-General, the acting Premier of the Province, what assistance the Government of this Province is prepared to give such undertaking, towards the construction of the part passing through our Territory; and whether such assistance will

be in the shape of land grants or bonds, or both, to enable this work, which will open up one of the richest parts of the country in mines of silver, coal, and agricultural lands, to be carried out?

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* replied as follows:—

“The Government cannot undertake to consider the proposition this Session.”

Mr. *Smith* asked the Honorable Mr. *Walkem* the following question:—

“Is it the intention of the Government to bring down a Bill this Session to amend the ‘Road Tax Extension Act, 1873?’”

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* replied as follows:—

“Yes.”

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 18) intituled “An Act to make provision for the better Administration of Justice,” was read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, 20th instant.

Pursuant to Order, the Report on Bill (No. 12) intituled “An Act respecting Ferries,” was considered.

Report adopted.

Ordered, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 11) intituled “An Act respecting the management of Public Boarding Schools,” was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair. Mr. *Saul*, Chairman of the Committee reported the Bill complete with amendments.

Ordered, That the Report be considered on Wednesday, 21st instant.

And then the House adjourned at 5.35, p.m.

Tuesday, 20th January, 1874.

2 o'clock P. M.

Mr. *Smithe* moved, seconded by Mr. *Cogan*,—

That a Select Committee be appointed to revise the Rules of Order of this House; said Committee to consist of Messrs *Mara*, *Robertson*, *Robson*, and *Smithe*.

The Motion was negatived on a division.

The Honorable Mr. *Beaven* presented, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, a Return of the Land granted for Timber Leases; when leased; and where situated in the several Districts of the Province of *British Columbia*. (*See Sessional Papers*.)

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* presented, by command of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Returns of Homesteads registered under the Homestead Law in force, and formerly in force on *Vancouver Island*. (*See Sessional Papers*.)

Pursuant to Order, Mr. *Smith* moved,—

That Bill (No. 15) intituled “An Act to amend the ‘Public School Act, 1872.’” be now read a second time.

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* moved in amendment, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Beaven*,—

That all the words after “That” be struck out, and the following words be inserted in lieu thereof:—“this Bill be read a second time this day six months.”

Amendment put and carried on the following division:—

YEAS :

Messieurs

<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Todd,</i>	<i>Mc Creight,</i>	<i>Holbrook,</i>
<i>Armstrong,</i>	<i>Robson,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	<i>Duck,</i>
<i>Beaven,</i>	<i>Barnston,</i>	<i>Cogan,</i>	<i>Robertson.—14.</i>
<i>Ash,</i>	<i>Hughes,</i>		

NAYS :

Messieurs

<i>Smith,</i>	<i>Mara,</i>	<i>Humphreys,</i>	<i>Robinson.—6.</i>
<i>Semlin,</i>	<i>Bunster</i>		

Motion, as amended, put and carried.

Pursuant to Order, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (No. 13) intituled "An Act to facilitate and explain the remedies of Creditors against the Lands of their Debtors."

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Saul*, Chairman of the Committee, reported the Bill complete with amendments.

Ordered, That the Report be considered on Wednesday, 21st instant.

Pursuant to Order, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (No. 14) intituled "An Act to provide for the more speedy payment of Taxes due on Real Estate in Vancouver Island."

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Booth*, Chairman of the Committee, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered, That leave be granted for Friday, 23rd instant.

The Order for the first reading of Bill (No. 6A) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Aliens Ordinance, 1867,'" was discharged.

Pursuant to Order, Bill (No. 3) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Married Women's Property Act, 1873,'" was read a second time.

Ordered to be committed forthwith.

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Hughes*, Chairman of the Committee, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered, That leave be granted for Wednesday, 21st instant.

And then the House adjourned at 5.55 p. m.

Wednesday, 21st January, 1874.

2 o'clock P. M.

Mr. *Saul* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 19) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Breeding Stock Act, 1872.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Monday, 26th instant.

The Honorable Mr. *Walkem* asked leave to introduce a Bill (No. 20) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Road Tax Extension Act, 1873.'"

Ordered, That leave be granted.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

Ordered to be read a second time on Monday, 26th instant.

Pursuant to Order, the Report on Bill (No. 11) intituled "An Act respecting the management of Public Boarding Schools" was considered.

Report adopted.

Ordered, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass.

Pursuant to Order, the Report on Bill (No. 13) intituled "An Act to facilitate and explain the remedies of Creditors against the Lands of their Debtors," was considered.

Report adopted.

Ordered, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass.

Pursuant to Order, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on Bill (No. 3) intituled "An Act to amend the 'Married Women's Property Act, 1873.'"

On Mr. Speaker resuming the Chair, Mr. *Hughes*, Chairman of the Committee, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Ordered, That leave be granted for Thursday, 22nd instant.

The Honorable Mr. *Bunster* moved, by leave of the House, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Humphreys*,—

That an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that he will ask the Dominion Government to have transferred to the City of *Victoria, British Columbia*, all that part of the Inlet East of the Westerly side of *James' Bay Bridge*, in said City, to the Corporation of City of *Victoria* aforesaid, for the purpose of holding Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibitions and Fairs.

The Debate which arose, was adjourned to Monday, 26th instant.

The Honorable Mr. *Humphreys* moved, by leave of the House, seconded by the Honorable Mr. *Bunster*,—

That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient to abolish the Office known by the generic name of the Fourth Portfolio.

Mr. *Mara* moved, in amendment, seconded by Mr. *Robson*,—

That the Motion of the Honorable Member for *Lillooet* be referred to a Select Committee, to enquire into and report to this House, at an early date; said Committee to consist of the Mover, the Honorable Attorney-General, and Messrs. *Hughes, Robertson, Booth, McCreight*, and *Humphreys*.

The Amendment, for reference to a Select Committee, was carried on the following division :—

YEAS:

Messieurs

<i>Walkem,</i>	<i>Mara,</i>	<i>Humphreys,</i>	<i>Saul,</i>
<i>Beaven,</i>	<i>Robson,</i>	<i>Duck,</i>	<i>Ash,</i>
<i>Hunter,</i>	<i>Bunster,</i>	<i>McCreight,</i>	<i>Smithe.</i> —15.
<i>Robinson,</i>	<i>Hughes,</i>	<i>Booth,</i>	

NAYS:

Messieurs

<i>Todd,</i>	<i>Barnston,</i>	<i>Cogan,</i>	<i>Holbrook.</i> —5.
<i>Semlin,</i>			

The Honorable Mr. *Ash*, and Messrs. *Mara, Semlin, Hughes*, and *Robson*, were named by the House to form the Select Committee.

And then the House adjourned at 6 p. m.