

MUCH CRY AND LITTLE WOOL

A Summary of the Proceedings of the B. C. Legislature— The Interests of Capital Well Conserved Against Labor

Below is given a summary of the activities of the two Socialist representatives in the Provincial Legislature for the last session, and of the capitalist representatives in the same House. It is to be hoped that any workman into whose hands this may fall, and who voted for an old party candidate, will study carefully, what the two Socialists have tried to do.

To amend the Coroner's Act by adding the following as a new section. "(2b.) All material evidence submitted under oath at any inquest shall be duly taken down by the official stenographer and incorporated in the reports of the evidence." Debated in Committee Jan 31, and defeated. See Clarion February 12th.

To amend the Notaries Act by inserting the following in lieu of section 4: "3. All applicants for the position of notary-public shall, before the Civil Service Commission, show that they are duly qualified and fit persons to hold such certificates." Defeated in Committee, February 1st, Clarion Feb. 12th.

To amend an Act to amend the Factories Act (introduced by Bowser) by prefacing it with the words "unless the trial judge otherwise orders." Bowser's Bill provided that an Inspector under the Factories Act should be prohibited from giving evidence in suits for damages brought against an employer for injury or death to an employee.

The Bill was opposed by the Socialists and forced to a division on February 2, in spite of McBride's obvious reluctance, and the second reading was carried, only the Socialists and Liberals voting against it, those in favor being all the Conservatives except absentees McDonald, Shatford, McPhillips, Thomson, McGuire, and Young. The above amendment was introduced in Committee on Monday February 7th, and again introduced and defeated in on Report on February 8th, those opposing it being all the Conservatives except absentees McDonald, Wright, Craven and Ellison. Clarion Feb 12th, and 19th.

To amend the Medical Inspection of Schools Act by providing that only duly qualified medical men be allowed to inspect the children. Opposed by the Minister of Education Young, but finally accepted. An attempt to induce the Minister to incorporate in the Bill a fixed scale of charges for medical inspection was unsuccessful. Clarion Feb 12 and 19.

To amend the Assessment Act by striking out Section "A" of income classification, which would have the effect of exempting all incomes up to \$2,000, instead of \$1,000 as at present. An amendment which would be of material benefit to the proletarian farmer. Defeated on February 9th.

To amend the Companies Act by striking out all the words after "Company" in clause 131 (e), which give a mining company power to buy, sell, manufacture and deal in all kinds of goods, stores, etc., required by the company or its servants." The Socialist objection to the clause was that it gave a company a more complete hold over their employees. The amendment was defeated.—Clarion March 5.

To amend the same Act, clause 247 sub-section (b), by striking out the words "during three months" and "not exceeding \$250," also to amend sub-section (c) by striking out "during three months," and sub-section (d) by substituting a new sub-section as follows: "All amounts due in respect of compensation under the Workman's Compensation Act 1902, before the said date." The clause provided, in the case of an insolvent company, the debts that had to be given precedence for payment. While taxes due have to be paid, an employee cannot claim more than three months arrears of

wages, and the amount not to exceed \$250; the clause to be struck out provides that a claim for compensation laying against a company under the Workman's Compensation Act shall be paid only up to \$500, under the Compensation Act the limit is \$1,500. The amendment was defeated on the following division: Ayes—Williams, Hawthornthwaite, and the two Liberals Noes—Fraser, McKenzie, Tisdall, Callanan, Miller, Jackson, Cawley, Bowser, Cotton, Ross, Shatford, McPhillips, Schofield, Hunter, McGuire, MacKay, Davey.—Clarion March 5th.

To amend the same Act by adding the following as a new section 29, and renumber the following sections: "29. Every company shall once in each and every year, publish in the Gazette a statement showing, (a) The amount of its capitalization. (b) The amount of its paid-up capital. (c) The average number of employees per month during the previous twelve months. (f) The average wage paid to such employees. (g) The number of Orientals employed. (h) The nature of the work upon which they are employed. (i) The average wage paid such Orientals. (j) The gross receipts for previous 12 months. (l) The net profit obtained, dividend paid. (m) Amount of reserve fund.

29 (b) If a company refuses or neglects to publish a statement in the Gazette in accordance with the provisions of Section 29, it shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$100 or less than \$50 for every day during which it is in default. Amendment defeated.—Clarion Feb 26th.

To amend the Game Act by prohibiting the slaughter of deer for sale, on Vancouver Island and the adjacent islands, thus making the prohibition general all over the Province. Defeated on a mixed vote.—Clarion Feb. 26th.

To amend the Liquor Act by including "bridge" among the list of prohibited games on licensed premises.—Defeated—Clarion March 5th.

To add the following as a new subsection to the Act to Amend the Public Schools Act: "Section 39 c. 44 of the Statutes of 1905 is hereby amended by adding the following subsection "39a" The Board of Trustees shall have the power to exclude any child or children from the school or schools on the ground that owing to racial and other differences it is deemed to be inadvisable in the best interests of the majority of children, to admit them." Defeated Feb. 24th. Ayes—Williams, Hawthornthwaite and the two Liberals. Noes—All the Conservatives except absentees Mackay.—Clarion Feb. 26 and March 5.

To amend Section 5 of the same Act by inserting the words "equal to in the place of the words "not less than," amendment was accepted and the clause now reads "To the Municipal Corporation of any Municipality whose Board of School Trustees shall provide suitable accommodation in connection with the school or schools under its jurisdiction for instruction in manual training, there shall be granted a sum 'equal to' three-fourth of the total amount expended for the necessary benches, tools, material and other equipment required." This amendment was accepted by the Minister for Education, as was also one to strike out the word "Superior" as applied to a grade of schools, and substituting the word "Intermediate" as being less snobbish.—Clarion Feb. 19th.

To amend the same Act by striking out Section 6, which had been amended by Hayward (Cowlchan), to "allow" residents in any school district in the E. & N. railway belt to assess themselves to raise the teachers' salaries. The amendment to strike out the section was defeated.—Ayes, Williams, Hawthornthwaite and the two Liberals. Nays—All the Conservatives except absentees Callanan, Shatford,

Thomson, Taylor, Mackay.—Clarion March 5th.

To amend the Steam Boilers Inspection Act by adding the following as a new section: "16. No engineer holding a certificate under this Act, except in case of accident or necessity, shall be employed for a longer period than 8 hours in any 24 hours. 24 hours, for the purpose of this Act, shall mean from midnight to midnight." Defeated.—Clarion March 19th.

To amend the Bush Fire Act by adding the following to Section 5, sub-section (2). "Where any farmer or owner of land neglects or refuses to obtain such permit he may be held responsible for any damage that may occur to surrounding holdings by the starting of such fires." Defeated—Clarion March 19th.

To amend the same Act by adding the following as a new section: "6. Any farmer or settler clearing land adjoining or contiguous to land held as wild land under the Assessment Act, shall, upon satisfying the Government Agent for the district in which such lands are situated that his operations will be accelerated thereby, obtain an order from such Government Agent requiring the owner of such wild land to clear a satisfactory fire-guard around, or partly around, such wild land." Defeated.—Clarion March 19th. Practically the same division as on the first amendment.

To amend the same Act by adding the following as a new section "Chapter 10 of the said c.84 of the Revised Statutes of 1897 is hereby repealed." Defeated.—Clarion March 19th. The object of the amendment was to prevent the employment of the informer and spy as a means for enforcing the Act. Ayes—Williams and Hawthornthwaite. Nays—Brewster, Jardine, and all the Conservatives except absentees Watson, Fraser, McDonald, McKenzie, Braden, Manson (Skeena), Miller, Bowser, Thomson, Behnsen, Manson (Dewdney.)

To amend the Act to ratify the C. N. R. Agreement by adding the fol-

lowing words to sub-section (e) Section 7, of the Schedule: "Provided always, that the lowest wages paid to any laborer or worker employed in said construction shall not be less than \$2.50 per day." Defeated.—Clarion March 19th.

To amend an Act respecting the Salvation Army by adding the following as sub-section (a) to Section 3: "(a) All contracts entered into and all obligations incurred by or on behalf of the Salvation Army, shall devolve upon and be binding upon and be discharged by the Governing Council of the Salvation Army." This amendment, introduced by Parker Williams, was withdrawn by him, the Attorney-General wishing to have the words "or on behalf of" struck out, and Mr. Williams refusing on ascertaining that the Army could repudiate an action of one of its officers if that was done. The Attorney-General then took the amendment, and having made the alteration, submitted it, and it was carried.

To amend the Provincial Elections Act by adding the following: "Any voter who can produce sufficient evidence to show that he has resided in the Province of B. C. for six months, is a British subject, and can read and write the English language, shall have the right to vote in any election in any district in which he has resided for 30 days previous to the date of such election, notwithstanding that his name is not upon any voters' list in any electoral district of the province." Defeated. Ayes—Hawthornthwaite and Williams. Nays—Brewster and all the Conservatives, except absentees Shaw, Watson, McDonald, McKenzie, Wright, Cawley, Cayen, Cotton, Ross, Schofield, Hunter, Young, Taylor, Hayward, Parson, Davey.

To amend the Land Act as follows: "13. Section 13 of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor—127. It shall not be lawful for a commissioner or any other person to issue a pre-emption

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FOR SALE

(Dedicated to the "spirit of the age.")

List while the singer sings,
List to the poet's lay,
Of men and women and things,
A truthful rhyme of today.
A story brutally true—
(Truths is seldom over-nice)—
Of the many and varied things you
can do,
Of the many and varied thing that you
Can buy—if you have the price!

Wherefore, O workers, this howl of
rage?
Wherefore this pitiful tale?
Get the price—in this beautiful age
Everything is for sale—
There are no exceptions at all to the
rule,
Everything is for sale, I say!
Men and women, the wise and the
fool,
Lots to be bought, like the ass or the
mule—
The price is "three meals a day."

What will you have—a heavenly home?
Come right along with me;
Throw a dime on the big bass drum—
The price is low, you see.
Different prices to suit your class,
But prices to catch the greatest or
least,
Come along this way for a genuine
pass,
Endow a church or pay for a mass,
And buy heaven from the parson or
priest!

Do you want a parliamentary seat?
It's easy enough if your purse is
long—
Booze and bribe and a voice that's
sweet,
And lie like hell to the "vulgar
throng."
All that you need is lots of gall,
A flag to wave and some pimps to
cheer,
Roar and rave and rant and call,
Promise the "plugs" a job for all—
Buy your seat with "hot air" and
beer!

Would you purchase the law of the
land?
It's done every day in the week,
you'll find,
Slip a "roll" into the proper hand.
(Justice, you know, is always blind)
That is the way to win your case—
The dignified judge will sagely jaw,
From his cushioned seat in the judg-
ment place,
Will solemnly fire off his "noble"
face—
It's easy enough to buy the law!

Women? The price has never been
lower
For a "light of love" or one for a
wife;
A dollar bill buys the first for an
hour,
The hope of a home gets the second
for life.

Fine girls, too, and pleasant to see,
Mistress or wife, they will play
their parts—
Caught in the meshes of slavery,
Beaten, and hopeless of breaking free,
Selling their bodies, if not their
hearts.

There are many things you say you
desire—
A good fat "wad" can get them all.
The whole wide world is for sale, or
hire—

There is nothing in it too great or
too small.
So plank down the price, and don't
be afraid—
Join in the game, on a wise man's
advice;
Coin is the force by which all are
swayed,
From a packet of pins to a virgin
maid,
It's only a matter of having the
price.

—DESMOND.

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record of any crown land, or sell any portion thereof, or grant authority under the said Act to record or divert any water from the natural channel of any stream, lake or river in this province, to any but the Caucasian race." (This amendment had been previously moved by Hayward (Cowichan) and withdrawn by him at the request of McBride and Bowser, and Hawthornthwaite immediately took it up, and moved it in his own name.) Defeated. (Clarion, March 19.)

To amend the Municipal Clauses Act by adding the following subsection: "30c. From any organization known as a Citizens' Alliance, Development League, Boosters' Club, or similar public nuisance, a sum not less than \$1000 for every six months." Defeated. (Clarion, March 19.) Only the two Socialists voted for it.

To amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act by adding the following: "Where an inspector has reason to believe that a dangerous condition exists in any mine by reason of the approach of workings to old or abandoned workings, he shall at once report to the minister of mines. Upon receipt of such report, the chief inspector shall, under instructions from the minister of mines, make an examination of the districts affected, and direct mining operations, or issue directions governing such operations, in said districts affected, until such dangerous condition is removed or overcome." Accepted and passed.

To amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act by adding the following as a new section: "Section 2 of C. 47 of the Statutes of 1889 is hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor: All inspectors under this Act shall be elected by the workmen employed underground in the district over which such inspector presides." Defeated. Ayes—Williams, Hawthornthwaite, and the two Liberals.

To amend the Act to Ratify the Agreement with the E. & N. Ry. Co. in such a manner as to include all persons who had occupied or improved land previous to 1887. (The Act grants to the E. & N. Co. 20,000 acres of land as compensation for the lands they lost under the famous Settlers' Rights Act. The amendment was introduced to prevent a recurrence of that trouble.) Defeated. Ayes—Williams, Hawthornthwaite, Jardine. Nays—All the Conservatives except absentees Shaw, Watson, McKenzie, Braden, Callanan, Miller, Jackson, Shatford, Wm. J. Manson, McGowan, Young, Ellison, Taylor, Hayward, Mackay, Parson.

To reduce the grant to the Salvation Army from \$20,000 to 12 cents. Defeated. Ayes—Williams and Hawthornthwaite. Nays—Watson, Fraser, McKenzie, Manson (Comox), W. Manson (Skeena), Tisdall, Jackson, Cawley, Bowser, McBride, Cotton, Ross, Shatford, Thomson, Behnsen, Hunter, Taylor, McGowan, Hayward, McGuire, Parson.

To reduce the grant to the Militia from \$1500 to 12 cents. Ayes—Williams and Hawthornthwaite. Nays—Watson, Fraser, W. Manson (Skeena), Tisdall, Wright, Callanan, Jackson, Miller, Cawley, Bowser, Cotton, Ross, Thomson, Hunter, Manson (Dewdney), Ellison, Young, Taylor, McGowan, Gifford, McGuire, Mackay, Davey.

To amend the C. N. Pac. Bill to compel the company to have a terminus in Alberni. Defeated. (Clarion, March 12.)

To amend the same Bill by striking out the words "Lieutenant-Governor in Council" in clause 37 and substitute the words "Provincial Legislature," thus forcing the company to apply to the latter body for permission to amalgamate with another company. Defeated. (Clarion, March 12.) Ayes—Williams and Hawthornthwaite. Nays—Shaw, Watson, Fraser, Braden, Brewster, Jardine, Manson (Skeena), Tisdall, Wright, Bowser, McBride, Cotton, McPhillips, Schofield, Behnsen, Hunter, Ellison, Taylor, McGowan, Parson.

To amend the same Bill by striking out the land grants for terminal and townsite purposes in clause 13(d). Defeated. (Clarion, March 12.)

To amend the Act to Incorporate the City of Prince Rupert, by abolishing the property qualification for mayor, and for voters at the first municipal election, and to give the city control of its own water supply. All the amendments were defeated. (Clarion, March 12.)

The Dyking Assessment Amending Act was forced to a vote on the third reading by the Socialists, as increasing taxation on the farmer which did not appear in the public accounts, and should be paid out of the consolidated fund. Nays—Williams, Hawthornthwaite. Ayes—The two Liberals and all the Conservatives except absentees Watson, Callanan, Cawley, Caven, McBride, Schofield, Gifford, McGuire, Mackay, Davey.

Labor Bills Introduced and DEFEATED on Thursday, March 8.

An Act to amend the Inspection of Metalliferous Mines Act, 1899. (To extend the 8-hour law for underground workers to workers in any "shaft, tunnel, pit, quarry, gloryhole, or any opening from which ore, rock

or mineral is broken or extracted in carrying on mining operations.") Defeated.

An Act to amend the Labor Regulation Act, 1910. (To extend the 8-hour law for smelters to all employees engaged in any work in which they are brought into contact" with either smoke, fumes, dust or heat arising from smelting or mining operations.) Defeated.

An Act respecting Compensation to Workmen for Accidental Injuries suffered in the course of their Employment. (Allowed to be discussed, but declared out of order, as being beyond the power of a private member to introduce.)

An Act to amend the Shops Regulation Act, 1900. (Lays down the hours shops shall close, one half-holiday weekly, four all-day holidays yearly on New Year's Day, Xmas Day, Easter Monday, May Day; removes the control from municipalities and places it under the Act, and provides a penalty not exceeding \$50 or one month imprisonment for breach of the law.) Defeated.

An Act to Establish a General Eight-hour Day. (Provides for eight-hour day in all industries not already regulated by law, with a penalty on employers or their agents of a sum not more than \$100 nor less than \$20 for each person working over eight hours. The penalty applies to workmen also.) Defeated.

An Act to amend the Health Act. (Provides for the sanitary inspection of "logging, lumber, railway, sawmill, mill, and mining camps" during the months of January, May and September of each year; a report of the sanitary condition and water supply to be turned in to the provincial board of health.) Defeated.

An Act to Prevent Discrimination Against Members of Trade Unions. Defeated.

What the Capitalist Members Have Done.

Wm. Manson (Skeena) introduced the following Bills: An Act to incorporate the Queen Charlotte Ry. Co.; an Act to incorporate the Anglican Synod for the District of Columbia; an Act to incorporate the Columbia and Alaska Ry. Co.; an Act to revive, ratify and confirm the incorporation of the Graham Island Ry. Co.

Fraser (Cariboo) introduced Acts to incorporate the B. C. and Alaska Ry. Co. and the Cariboo, Barkerville and Willow River Ry. Co.

Miller (Grand Forks) introduced an Act to incorporate the Northern B. C. Telephone Co., and an Act respecting the Great West Permanent Loan Company.

Ross (Ferne) introduced his fake Bi-monthly Payday Bill, which is limited to concerns paying not less than \$50,000 monthly in wages, and has no penalty attached. It was defeated on the last day of the session.

Shatford (Smiilkameen) introduced an Act to incorporate the Pentleton Ry. Co., which was opposed by the Socialists.

Thomson (Victoria) introduced an Act respecting an agreement between the B. C. Electric Co. and City of Victoria; an Act to incorporate the Northern Vancouver Island Ry. Co.; an Act to incorporate the B. C. Mainland and Industrial Co. (The latter opposed by the Socialists, as not in the interests of the citizens of Prince Rupert.)

Behnsen (Victoria)—An Act confirming and ratifying the incorporation of the Campbell River Power Co.

Davey (Victoria)—Act respecting the Salvation Army.

McGowan (Vancouver)—Acts to incorporate the Port Moody, Indian River and Northern Ry. Co.; the B. C. Packers' Association; the Island Valley Ry. Co.; and to revive the Vancouver and Nicola Valley Ry. Co.

Gifford (New Westminster)—An Act to incorporate the Comox Logging and Ry. Co.

Hayward (Cowichan)—An Act to incorporate the Menzies Bay Ry. Co.; and an Act respecting the powers of the Municipality of Oak Bay.

Tisdall (Vancouver) — Introduced some eight corporation Bills; Bowser, the attorney-general, some 31, some merely of an administrative nature, and none of a nature calculated to benefit the workers; in some instances, as in the Coroner Act, Factories Act, and Companies Act, leaving them in a worse position than before.

The following Conservatives rarely spoke, introduced no legislation of any kind, but kept one sleepy eye on McBride or Bowser for the cue as to how they were to vote:

Shaw, Watson, McDonald, McKenzie, Braden, Manson (Comox), Wright, Callanan, Jackson, Cawley, Caven, McPhillips, Cotton (the last two, it is fair to say, never went to sleep!), Schofield, Hunter, Manson (Dewdney), McGuire, Mackay, Parson.

Although they did nothing else, they amply justified the wisdom of their constituents by enthusiastically voting down every bill and amendment introduced by the Socialists in the interests of the working class of the province, which was not desired by the government.

J. H. B.

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