

shopkeepers and business men in the villages and rural municipalities were equally deserving with the salary-earners of consideration in the matter of taxation, rose to move an amendment to the clause in question.

The procedure, the Premier declared, was "irregular, disorderly and absurd." Objection should have been taken when the clause was under consideration. If such procedure were followed, he argued, the House would never get through committee work.

The Colonel Wins Out.

But Colonel Clark stood his ground. The committee stage, he opined, was the proper one in which to conduct free and full discussion of all such matters. He preferred to test the House on the proposition advanced.

The Premier capitulated. The member, he admitted, was right in his contention for the privilege of submitting his resolution.

The Bruce man then moved along the lines he advocated, but failed to get a majority of the House.

Mr. Cochrane's Bill Carried.

The Government bill respecting the establishment of town sites, under which it is required that one-quarter of the property be given to the Crown, was piloted through committee by Hon. Mr. Cochrane.

Hon. Mr. MacKay asked if it was proposed to take the twenty-five per cent. of the land whether the Crown had done anything towards developing the town or not.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane replied that the Province had gone to the expense of opening up and developing. British Columbia was operating under a similar act.

"It only applies in cases where the town-site is established by private owners?" queried the Liberal leader.

"That's all," observed the Minister, and the bill passed.

MADE BIG PROFITS.

FURTHER INQUIRY INTO GILLIES LIMIT SALE METHODS.

Opposition Members Continue to Insert the Probe—Mr. Clarke Thinks That the Province Lost a Great Deal by the Sales.

The only scheduled business before the Public Accounts Committee yesterday was the consideration of a number of accounts in connection with the Gowganda road, which Mr. Sam Clarke (West Northumberland) asked for some time ago. The accounts were laid on the table by the Chairman, Mr. Ferguson, but were not gone into.

Mr. T. W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines, was recalled and examined by Mr. Clarke in reference to the sales of mining property on the Gillies limit. He stated that Lot A6 was sold for \$15,300. The department had no knowledge of any exceptional mineral deposits thereon.

"Well," observed Mr. Clarke, "someone must have seen something well worth while. I am informed on good authority that \$150,000 was subsequently offered for the property."

To Hon. A. J. Matheson Mr. Gibson stated that the discoveries on the Waldman property had resulted in better prices being offered. Many tenders were rejected.

"The Government thus indirectly made considerable by the discovery," commented the Provincial Treasurer.

"The Government apparently lost a great deal on the sales—that's what appeals to me," retorted Mr. Clarke.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Gibson said no silver had yet been shipped from the limit, except by the Government.

To Mr. McGarry he stated that A6 property was let to a New York bidder at \$11,000 on the first sale, but

the bidder had failed to take it. On the second sale no bids were received for the property, while the sale was made for \$15,300. at the last calling for tenders.

Hon. Mr. Matheson—In your opinion, Mr. Gibson, did the people who were likely to tender have fair notice?

"I think they did," replied Mr. Gibson. The Deputy Minister gave a statement showing that the Government had spent \$94,231 on the Gillies Limit.

The receipts had been \$128,028.61, leaving a credit of \$33,756.65. The receipts from the rest of the limit sold was \$488,862.

Mr. Clarke—I understood at one time that the Gillies limit was supposed to be a very valuable property and that the Government had tentative offers of \$20,000,000.

"We never had any such offer," retorted the Provincial Treasurer.

"Were you approached?"

"There was nothing binding."

"No, because you would never entertain it."

Hon. Mr. Matheson—Do you think, Mr. Clarke, that the Province would have been justified in taking twenty millions for this property and salting the purchasers for nineteen and a half millions?

"I think," retorted Mr. Clarke, "that the Government would have been as much justified in taking \$20,000,000 as selling for \$80,000 or \$25,000 or \$40,000."

Hon. Mr. Matheson—It would have injured the credit of the Province for years if we had sold this property for more than it was worth.

Mr. Clarke moved a resolution, seconded by Mr. J. C. Elliott, asking that Mr. S. D. Madden and Mr. George E. Martell be called to give evidence. It was objected that this would hold up the House. "We wanted to get through by Wednesday if we could," remarked Hon. Col. Matheson.

"I don't want to hold up the House," said Mr. Clarke, "but there are a number of things here I want to know about."

Hon. Mr. Matheson—It is not part of the business of this committee to find out what the purchasers of these properties got subsequently.

Mr. Clarke declared that it was a matter for the Opposition members to deal with. "Our point," he explained, "is this: We have only gone into three deals, but in those three deals there was subsequently made more money than you got for all the properties you sold."

"That does not necessarily mean the value was there," was Col Matheson's comment.

"No," retorted the member from Northumberland, "but people bought the properties at those prices."

In order to allow the Chairman of the committee to telegraph to Cobalt in order to see if Messrs. Madden and Martell could be located the committee adjourned until this morning. Mr. Clarke stated that, apart from this matter, there were but a few things he and his colleagues would want to inquire about. Tomorrow he will ask for explanations in regard to a number of expense accounts of Government officers which look unusually large.