

Mr. Helmcken escape? Was he away too? How does Mr. Hall escape? Mr. Hall (from the audience)—He was not there, either. (Great laughter.) Mr. Martin—I wonder if any one was there excepting that infernal bad man Martin. (Renewed laughter.) That must have been it. I could never understand before.

Mr. Higgins (from the audience)—I was there. I voted for it.

Mr. Martin—There is that old man Higgins. (Roars of laughter.) I thank him for coming in to fill the breach. I believe Mr. Higgins and I

Were Responsible.

for a great deal of what happened lately, and I believe that if we can only convince people that we alone are responsible for the passage of that law we will be pretty sure to be elected again."

Turning again to the case of Mr. Bodwell, he said that gentleman did not oppose him because he passed the eight-hour law. The real reason was much more satisfactory to the speaker than the alleged one. Mr. Bodwell and two other prominent Liberals, Messrs. Davis and Gregory, had announced their opposition to him. Col. Gregory says that he has no confidence in him, and the others say the same. What he said about Mr. Bodwell was applied as well to the other two. They acted quite properly in their own interest.

Previous governments had given away big slices of the public domains to corporations. There had been few of the great big give-aways perpetrated by Mr. Turner and other governments in which the statutes were made good and binding, so that these corporations would miss nothing. He received large cheques for services of this kind. The speaker did not for that reason reflect on him.

But there would be few large cheques drawn for the same purpose if the present government was returned to power at the next election. He had stated that he opposed the government for the legislation of 1899. Now, it was not because of the eight-hour law or the Alien law, but for something entirely different.

The Turner government had agreed to bonus a railroad from the Coast to Kootenay to be built by Mackenzie & Mann at the rate of \$4,000 a mile. This was a violation of the statute under which bonuses were provided for, for which government were enabled to grant such subsidies, the contractors on the other hand to build the road. The men did not agree to build only if they obtained an additional subsidy from the Dominion government. Like all philanthropic corporations they were willing to go on with construction provided the sum sufficient to build the railroad. The government announced that it would abrogate the agreement, and as soon as the House met introduced legislation to

Take Away the Power

to grant such a bonus. They did so because they believed such a bonus improper unless such a railway was to be a real competitor of the C. P. R. As soon as Mackenzie & Mann heard of it they took the step which they found effective in other provinces, and hunted up three lawyers, supporters of the government. These men they hired. They went over to the parliament buildings and they lived there. (Laughter.) They stayed night and day. (Laughter.) The members couldn't move around without being bothered. Members from up country came to him and asked him if there was no law by which these men could be kicked out of the lobbies. They were there morning, noon and night, and by virtue of dollars in their pockets. They, of course, had a right to be there, although they were a great nuisance, and probably later on steps would be taken to prevent that sort of thing. The speaker when he adhered to his intention of taking away those bonuses, was told that they would withdraw their support. He felt relieved to hear it. He felt he could afford to lose three supporters in taking the part of the people as against Mackenzie & Mann.

When the elections and when Liberals understood why these men were against him they would take no stock in their suggestions that he was a dangerous man, that he had ruined the government, that he was a wrecker and no good. Col. Gregory says that those who were most intimate with the speaker had gone back on him. He did not think that gentleman was ever very intimate with him, and he was proud of the reasons that led him to go back on him.

Col. Gregory, too, had a personal account to settle. He had been employed in a legal capacity and had submitted a bill which he (the speaker) had refused to pay. He told him that he would pay him much less than the specified amount. It was not a pleasant thing to do, and it was not a politically judicious thing to do, but the fact was that he had refused his audience would scarcely believe him, he was troubled with a conscience, (loud laughter.) He even went further than he thought fair, but he would not pay the full amount, and he and the Colonel had scarcely spoken since.

Another matter which seemed to confuse people was the demand for an immediate election. He agreed that the Governor, having called on one who had no following in the House, should allow an appeal to the people at the first opportunity. He agreed to accept the responsibility of

Forming a Ministry

only on condition that he be allowed that privilege. But everything should be done in a reasonable way. The elections would have to be held at a date that was later than he would like it to be, for otherwise he would be obliged to use the November lists. This would disfranchise a large portion of the electors. For instance, in southeast Kootenay 700 names had been added since November. In Grand Forks 290 had been added. In Vancouver 1,100 had been added. Under these circumstances the government thought it unfair to hold another election until these lists could be revised. That revision would take place on May 7th.

It had been alleged that this delay was a necessary carrying on government by special warrant. This was not the case. On account of the failure of the Semlin government to carry on business no supplies had been voted. But even if they had they would not have been available until the 1st of July. All supplies for this year had been voted

last year and were available up to the last of June. This was pointed out in the prorogation speech, which he believed no one listened to excepting himself. (Laughter.) It was necessary to have another session before the close of the fiscal year to vote money to carry on the government. As the government paid its bills at the end of the month so money was actually required until August 1st. The House would meet about the end of June or the beginning of July. There was plenty of money, the department were running along smoothly and there was no occasion for any concern on that score.

Under previous governments it had been the practice to use up the road appropriations before the end of the fiscal year, and then the special warrants were employed. The government had no right to use these excepting under extraordinary circumstances, all monies necessary for ordinary expenses having been provided by the legislature. Yet Mr. Cotton had incurred a liability of \$75,000 or \$100,000 without the authority of parliament on special warrants even after the Governor had refused to sign them unless so advised by the Attorney-General, and the latter had declined to give such advice. The speaker referred to several contracts such as the Victoria and Rossland court houses, which were being carried out in good faith by the contractors when the money for them was exhausted. He had, however, decided that good faith must be kept, the money had been provided and these men and their workmen would be paid.

He was not sorry for other reasons that the elections had been delayed. These "business" men were of course anxious for an election right off, but apart from the ravings of madmen (laughter) of that kind, people were anxious that when it was held that it

Would Result in Stable Government.

It was more likely people would be able to form a proper opinion after hearing both sides of the question, and he was glad to see that Chas. Wilson held the view that there was no reason for haste. Both he and Mr. Wilson were anxious to make the acquaintance of parts of the province they had not yet visited.

He had been charged, too, with being a government wrecker. He denied being so in Manitoba so far as his own colleagues were concerned, as he had left the Greenway government stronger than when he entered it. He had been so as regards political opponents, because he conceived it to be his duty to fight them as hard as he knew how. He had assisted at several governmental funerals and had been in at the death of his friend Mr. Turner. He did not regret that. He had left the Semlin government, from which he was expelled, stronger than when he entered it. He could not be charged with wrecking it in leaving it, as that was something with which he had nothing to do, having been kicked out of it (laughter). But after leaving it he had gradually got weaker and weaker, till that fatal Friday, when it expired.

It had been charged that he was animated by personal pique and personal animosity against Mr. Cotton. The real reason he believed was because Semlin and Cotton were not prepared to go any further on the lines which they knew he would insist on following. They knew he would adhere to the platform of 1898.

They differed on two great questions, one of which was the disallowance of a bill prohibiting the employment of Mongolians in coal mines. At the suggestion of the Imperial government the Dominion government had disallowed that measure, but he urged its re-enactment. He had been charged for so doing by machine Liberals because such a course was antagonizing the Ottawa government. He claimed to be as good a Liberal as any man in Canada, but he was such only because he believed their policy was best for this country. He would not allow any party to tie him down, however. He would not hesitate to criticize his party if it made a mistake and was not legislating in the interest of the country. Ottawa did not view this matter as British Columbians did. Since that act was disallowed Mongolians had been arriving in hordes. That army meant their homes, and their livelihood, and the introduction of labor against which white men could not compete. Ottawa must allow this province to point this out, and if any clash resulted it was not because he desired it. He intended to stand by the people of the province in which his lot had been cast.

Mr. Cotton had been taken with the statement that the act must be disallowed for Imperial reasons, and for the cultivation of friendship with the Emperor of Japan. In view of recent events he thought British Columbia could claim as much loyalty as any other part of the Empire. They had a right to bring before the Imperial and Dominion authorities what was to them a question of life and death. He believed their representatives would be favorably considered if submitted in a manly and straightforward way, and he did not think the Imperial authorities would sacrifice this province on the altar of friendship for the Emperor of Japan. Therefore he believed faith in the Imperial government, and their desire to deal fairly with the people of British Columbia, he proposed to re-enact this legislation, not in hostility, but in order that their views might be impressed on London and Ottawa.

Another question was the transfer of an immense tract of coal lands to the Crown's Nest Coal Company. It was outrageous to give away such a belt of land in order to have a little railway built in the southern portion of the province. Before parting with this land he looked into the contracts to see if the company was entitled to the lands. He found they had no valid claim. The British Columbia Southern never built the road, it was constructed by the C. P. R., who were subsidized by the Dominion government, and the coal lands were given to the company. He and others, when they applied for a Crown grant he looked into the statute and came to the conclusion that they had not fulfilled their obligations, and were not entitled to a single acre of the land. The matter was referred for an opinion to Messrs. Christopher Robinson, of Toronto, and B. B. Osler. They agreed with the speaker. He held that in view of this opinion not an acre of the land should have been given up until the question had been settled by the highest court in the land. Cotton had said that he didn't lay all the facts before these gentlemen, but if such was the case it was Cotton's duty to do so, and see whether it affected their opinion before handing

over these lands. While this was pending he was expelled from the government, and soon Messrs. Cox & Jaffray appeared on the scene and obtained a grant of the 600,000 acres of coal lands. They bulldozed Cotton by threatening to shut down their mines, which would result, they said, in the closing of the smelters, whom they supplied with coke, overlooking the fact that up to a short time before Mr. Dunsmuir, whose name perhaps he should not mention, because he gave him a free boat, had been steadily supplying these smelters.

Referring to the value of these deposits he quoted the speech of Elias Rogers, president of the company, who estimated their value at ten thousand million tons, which at one cent a ton would be worth \$100,000,000. There was enough wealth in these deposits to run the province for fifty years without a cent of taxation had the government stood by the people's rights.

He charged the press of the province with neglecting its duty in not seeing that the electors were informed of these things. Unfortunately he only had the World supporting him (laughter)—but he himself would go through the country and tell the people the facts. It was wonderful what an influence these rich men had with newspapers.

The Nanaimo outrage he stamped as nearly as bad.

The question of what these men proposed to do was of importance, and he denounced himself. The chairman had referred to the unanimity with which ascribing statesmen like Mr. Lugin had denounced the Governor without suggesting who should have been called in. Of course, Mr. Lugin was too modest to say that he should have been the man.

It had also been urged that in forming his cabinet he had overlooked some prominent politicians. He had done so designedly. All of these statesmen, he said, had put themselves in such a position that they could not be asked into his government. It would not be nice after being called by the Governor, to insult him, which he would certainly do if he were to invite into his ministry gentlemen who had

Deliberately Insulted Him

a short time previously. Some of them said they wouldn't move a position under him, but he wouldn't like to offer a portfolio to them. He believed that these men did not realize what they were doing and that many of them now regretted it. They had been rushed into it by one or two, who acted hastily. He heard Mr. Tisdall shouting in the doorway that the fight was the fight of the people, and he believed he now regretted it. Some of these men were crying out for a new deal. That was what he was giving them, and they did not seem satisfied. (Laughter.) Mr. Martin then proceeded to elucidate his platform. In regard to the plan of abolishing the \$200 qualification for members he believed that had it been in force there would not have been a legislature which would make reckless grants to corporations. He also defended himself from the charge of acting dishonestly in the compact made by him with Mr. Kellogg in regard to the Redistribution bill. He learned that a coalition was being arranged between Semlin and Turner, and that if the government was not defeated at once an arrangement would be reached annulling much useful legislation, and reducing himself and Mr. Higgins to a small and insignificant minority.

After a reference to his views in regard to the initiative and referendum and its limited employment in matters such as the eight-hour law, Mr. Martin announced that the elections would be held about the 15th of June, and that the House would likely be called together early in July.

A seditious petition had been got up to influence the Governor in this matter, in fact to build up him. "I don't think it will be successful with the Governor," said Mr. Martin, "and I assure you it won't be with me."

He also favored opening the province up on systematic lines, by borrowing a sum sufficient to do the work in a thorough manner, for which it would be necessary to raise the taxation sufficiently to meet the interest without impairing the credit of the province.

The new administration believed in government ownership and operation of railways, and would immediately begin the construction of a line from the Coast to Kootenay. He thought that the "business" people instead of worrying about Martin would have discussed a proposition of that kind which would especially benefit the wholesalers of Victoria and Vancouver. Yet he had been unsparingly denounced by the Victoria Board of Trade. The people of Vancouver being actuated by business principles looked at it from a business standpoint, and had stood at his back.

Victoria he thought was a curious place. He did not know whether some of its business men were afraid of the C. P. R. depriving them of the little privileges they enjoyed on the quiet, but they certainly acted in an extraordinary way. He referred to the change of front on the Corbin railway matter. The C. P. R. was now forcing the trade of the Kootenay into Eastern channels in order to get the advantage of a long haul, and provincial merchants were handicapped. He proposed a road to be operated in the hands of the people and not one which would be handed over to the C. P. R. on completion. There was only one power in the province which could

Compete With the C. P. R.

and that was the government. Yet his friend Senator Templeman nearly went into hysterics when he suggested government ownership of railways, notwithstanding that he was chairman of a Liberal convention which adopted it as one of its planks.

The Conservatives had adopted the same principle, yet the Colonist, which he supposed was a Conservative paper, although a wobbly one, opposed his policy.

The big railway corporation made no howl when these political conventions adopted these planks, "but when a fellow like me comes along and not only says it but proposes to do it, then you hear the wailing. No wonder Martin is a dangerous man."

He ridiculed the idea that capital could not be obtained for the enterprise, and promised if elected he would instal a fast ferry connecting Victoria with this railway, putting this city on the same basis as far as possible with Vancouver, "and

then, if the Vancouver merchants can't come over and clean out the kind of 'business' men you have in Victoria, I'll come over and live here." The cost of the road would be the bare cost of materials and labor, as there would be no millionaire made out of it, and this would put the road in an advantageous position in fighting the C. P. R.

Concluding, Mr. Martin said he had submitted his platform and he hoped that as time went on all collateral matters would be dropped and the people would get down to the question of whether the platform was in the interests of the country or not. He was receiving flattering letters even from political opponents, who stated that it was the first time a progressive

Statesmanlike Policy had been put before the people of the province.

That being the case, it was a question whether he would carry out his promises. In this respect he had the advantage of a record. He had been in public life twenty years, and could truly say that there was no pledge made which he had not carried out. If returned to power he would certainly carry out his pledges. The outcry which had been raised arose from the conviction of those uttering them that he really meant what he said. He had the utmost confidence in the electorate; he never wavered in his belief that after all the electors would be true to themselves. The spirit of all this outcry the people were with him, not because of personal feelings, but because they believed in his policy. Every day he felt stronger, and when the 15th of June came he felt that the people would not be misled and would return him to power.

A vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman and the meeting terminated.

"OPEN DOOR" POLICY.

London Newspaper Comments on the Successful Negotiations Between the United States and Powers.

London, March 28.—The Standard, in an editorial dealing with the "open door" policy, says that the correspondence between the United States, Great Britain and the European powers upon the question of the "open door" policy in China, says: "The policy of the United States was one of passive watchfulness, while Lord Salisbury was fighting for the 'open door' in China and Manchuria. The Americans came upon the scene only after British diplomacy had won its victories. The adhesion of France is very interesting, the real value of such assurances which in no wise alter existing conditions, will only be seen when the disruption of China comes to pass."

The Daily News also claims for Great Britain credit of inaugurating the "open door" policy.

The Daily Chronicle says: "From England it was only to be expected that the answer would be favorable; but that Russia should have replied that she is happy to comply with the wishes of the United States, bears eloquent testimony to the question which the latter power has assumed in the councils of the world." With American aid, the Daily Chronicle thinks, England can regenerate China.

The afternoon papers here unanimously applaud Secretary Hay's diplomatic achievement in establishing the doctrine in the "open door" in China, and say his success is much more considerable than hitherto realized.

CANADIAN BREVITIES.

Halifax, N. S., March 28.—The record of the sea search for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, for the season just closed, is 240,000.

Elmira, Ont., March 28.—Rev. D. Dippel, one of the oldest and best known clergymen in the county of Waterloo, is dead. In the early fifties he was in the service of the Presbyterian Association in Bruce peninsula and southern Ontario, where he was generally known as Father Dippel.

Hamilton, March 28.—The will of the late Geo. E. Tuckett has been probated. The estate is worth \$709,000. The amount paid to the government for duties is \$35,000.

Pembroke, March 28.—The Conservatives of North Renfrew have again chosen Hon. Peter White as their candidate for the next general election.

Toronto, March 28.—It has been definitely announced here that Messrs. Lloyd, proprietors of the London Daily Chronicle and Lloyd's News, have purchased the property of the Sturgeon Falls Paper Co., and valuable concessions from the Ontario government in northern Ontario.

Three trains of settlers and two of effects left yesterday over the C. P. R. for the Northwest.

The inspection committee of the public school board in this city have decided hereafter that only vertical writing is to be taught in Toronto schools.

Montreal, March 28.—Alfred Perry, a veteran of the rebellion of 1837, and of the Montreal fire brigade, is dead at 70 years. He was at the time of his death one of the city fire commissioners.

SHORT OF FOOD.

Tacoma, March 28.—Several stations near the south of the Yukon river are suffering from serious food shortage, according to advices just received from Dawson. Manager Hearn, of the Alaska Commercial Co.'s store at Dawson, has received a letter from Capt. H. Enson, at St. Michaels, stating that at Andreaski and at two Russian missions, the missionaries have had to issue rations to keep all from starving. At one mission last fall that at the stations had supplies for all winter. Many Indians have come in from distant parts, however, to be fed. Wood choppers on the lower Yukon have also applied for more food than they were expected to need. The distance from St. Michaels is too great to carry provisions seaward. The first boat up the river from St. Michaels in June will be compelled to unload at stations in order to relieve the shortage.

CANADA'S TRADE WITH BRITAIN.

Toronto, March 28.—The Globe's London correspondent cables that the Rt. Hon. Jas. Lowther commented very favorably upon Canada's policy regarding trade with the Mother Land in the House of Commons last night.

Mr. Lowther is a very ardent and energetic advocate of the policy of stimulating inter-Imperial trade.



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Chinese Situation

Demands Made on China for Maintaining the "Open Door."

Fighting Between "Boxers" and Imperial Troops—Heavy Casualties.

(Associated Press.)

Washington, March 27.—Secretary Hay submitted to-day to congress the correspondence had with the governments of other nations respecting the maintenance of an "open door" in China. The correspondence began on September 6th last, and the 20th instant marked the successful completion of the undertaking. The nations addressed on this subject by the United States were Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Italy and Japan.

The specific propositions in which the acquiescence of the other powers was desired, and eventually obtained, were as follows:

1. That each within its "sphere of influence," or leased territory in China, should pledge itself not in any way to interfere with any treaty port or vested right within the sphere of territory under lease.

2. That in all ports within the "spheres of influence," except free ports, all merchandise landed or shipped, irrespective of nationality, shall pay the Chinese treaty tariff for the time being, and duties shall be paid to the Chinese government.

3. That in ports in the "spheres of influence" the government controlling that sphere will levy no greater harbor duties on vessels of any nationality than are levied on vessels of its own nationality, and that on railroads built, controlled or operated within these spheres, the citizens of other nationalities shall pay no higher charges for transportation of merchandise than are paid by the citizens of the powers controlling such spheres.

The powers making the demands were Great Britain, Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Fierce Fighting.

Peking, March 27.—The "Boxer" movement in the north is assuming alarming proportions. News has been received here that an indecisive but fierce fight has taken place between the "Boxers" and Imperial troops at Yen Chih, province of Chi Li. Each force numbered 1,500 men, and

there were heavy casualties on both sides.

Russia and Japan.

Yokohama, March 27.—A Russian steamer from Hongkong, arrived at Chemulpo. It is believed this steamer a demand for a concession of land at Masango, a small harbor twenty miles south of Chemulpo, and it is arousing uneasy comments in Japan.

KETTLE RIVER RAILWAY.

Bill to Come Before Railway Committee on April 5th—Commissions for Graduates of Military College.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, March 27.—At a meeting of the railway committee to-day it was decided to take up the Kettle River Railway Bill on April 5th. The bill extending the time for the commencement of the Cowichan Valley Railway for two years passed the committee. Col. Domville's bill to increase the capital stock of the Northern Commercial Telegraph Company to \$500,000 was also reported.

Hon. A. H. Gilmour is expected to be sworn in to the Senate this afternoon. A cable has been received from the colonial office giving three more commissions to the graduates of the Royal Military College, making fifteen to the college, or forty-five commissions in all to Canada.

PARIS EXPOSITION.

(Associated Press.) Paris, March 27.—At a cabinet council to-day, M. Loubet presiding, it was decided to officially inaugurate the Paris exposition on Saturday, April 14th.

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