# PROVINCIAL POLITICS

## Smith Curtis's Review of His Course in the Legislature.

## Arraignment of Martin and McInnes—Praise for Premier.

For more than two hours last night Smith Curtis, ex-member of the legislature from the Rossland riding, entertained an audience at Union hall with a discussion of politics past, present and future. The hall was fairly well filled, and the audience listened with close attention to an admirable speech frequently marked with applause.

From start to finish Mr. Curtis devoted himself with unsparing severity to Joseph Martin and W. W. B. McInnes, former colleagues and afterwards opponents.

Peter Ronald McDonald, president of No. 6 district, Western Federation of Miners, occupied the chair, and introduced Mr. Curtis in brief and well chosen remarks. The speaker of the evening opened in a general way, having as his basis the theme that the heart of the people was right, but that the difficulty in choosing representatives in the legislative halls was to find men who had the courage to act right. He then plunged into the story of political events during his last term in the house.

His first session found the Martin party government defeated and their opponents in office under James Dunsmuir. The opposition was a compact body of eight members under Martin, who were able to do their work during the season without reproach, so that before the end of the session they had added three members to their strength. There was comparatively little legislation, although enough to show that the government, which was almost wholly Conservative in its makeup, stood for the railroad monopolies. It was clear that Dunsmuir and his party proposed to support the Canadian Pacific right or wrong. Why? Because, in his opinion, the Dunsmuir collieries had contracts from the Canadian Pacific for coal supplies that could be ended at a day's notice.

The second session—that of 1901—demonstrated a more apparent alliance between the Canadian Pacific and allied interests on the one hand and the Dunsmuir government on the other. When the Coast-Kootenay railroad issue came up—of vital importance to the people—it was to be dealt with in a railway aid bill, which embraced other roads to be benefited. The speaker had denounced this bill, saying that the Coast-Kootenay road would never be built under it, and the result showed he was correct. The government framed the bill in such a manner that no road chartered by the Dominion could ever get the subsidy, and it happened that the only charters available had been passed at that session and were owned by the Canadian Pacific. He charged that the government expressly intended the Canadian Pacific should build the road, and if they didn't nobody eles would. This was unworthy, dishonest and unfair to the people, for the road would have brought great benefits to the people.

MARTIN'S DEFECTION.

Then it was that Joseph Martin and W. W. B. McInnes, a Martin lieutenant, went over to the government, on the ground that the bill was a good one. Martin afterwards said the Canadian Pacific was the only company capable of building the road, yet he had opposed the Canadian Pacific manfully in Manitoba and made his reputation on the fight put up there. Thus Martin and McInnes sold out. If at the end of the session Martin and his party had followed their principles enunciated in their platform of voting against monopolies they would have defeated the government and saved the country much bad legislation.

Mr. Curtis then detailed the incident of the dinner at the Dallas hotel on the night of prorogation of the second session, where Martin had endeavored to detain him at table while a bill was being railroaded through the house to grant the Canadian Pacific 900,000 acres of land to which they had no right and which were to be selected anywhere in the province regardless of the railroad act. He had got to the house in time to block the bill, but found that Hon. Richard McBride, the present premier, was also prepared to block the bill and that it was never introduced. He desired to give Mr. McBride credit for this intention. (Applause.) Then Martin declared he knew nothing of any such bill, which was a downright lie, for Curtis had referred to it in the course of the dinner. Was that the kind of a man for a leader? There were so many evidences of Martin's untruthfulness that no value whatever could be placed on his word. He was a disgrace to any party, no matter what its policy might be.

A FAMOUS LAND BILL.

Mr. Curtis then proceeded to deal with the Columbia & Western land bill, which he described as the most gigantic steal ever attempted in Canada. It was proposed to grant 900,000 acres of land to be selected anywhere in the province in ten thousand-acre plots, which was equal to four or five million acres under the ordinary restrictions. His own suggestion at the time was that the legislature should hand over to the Canadian Pacific all of Kootenay and Yale except the rivers and lakes and the mountain peaks down to snow line. This remark was passed on the floor of the house, yet to the investigating committee Martin had declared that he knew nothing of the contents of the proposed bill.

When the house met again the government proposed to hand over to the Canadian Pacific immensely rich tracts of oil and coal lands in East Kootenay. Wells went to Montreal and tried to get Shaughnessy to build a road into the Similkameen. The evidence showed that Wells was not animated by a desire for personal boodle, but that he wished to create political capital with which to keep the government alive. It was shown that Wells was approached with a proposition to form a company to take over these lands, of which a section was to be reserved to Wells, and that the latter repudiated the proposal. Curtis asked questions anent the crown grants of East Kootenay lands, and these were to be answered on March 18, and on that very day the crown grants were cancelled, and he had much to do with this action. The railway bill intended to steal immensely valuable lands, and who was responsible for it? The deputy attorney-general swore that the bill was brought in by G. McL. Brown, then executive agent for the Canadian Pacific, and sent to the King's printer with trifling alterations. Then the question arose, Who drew the bill? It was manifestly drawn by a lawyer, and there was every reason to believe by a lawyer in the house. Who were the lawyers in the house? Eberts, Martin and McInnes, supporting the government. When Brown was asked what lawyer drew the bill he naively remarked that he had forgotten. He would say no further on the subject, as he was not after Brown, but would point out that where men had placed themselves in a position that meant a term in the penitentiary to follow exposure it was natural that the man who engineered the deal would forget names. It should be borne in mind that Martin and McInnes were exposed to suspicion in this connection. McInnes was possibly the most dangerous of the two, for he had every reason to believe that the splendid intellect and ability of Joseph Martin were on the wane, this being shown in his right-about-face in supporting the Dunsmuir government, which was the rottenest the province ever had. Martin's judgment or principle was gone—perhaps both. (Laughter.)

TRIBUTE TO PREMIER.

Mr. Curtis then devoted his attention to the Canadian Northern bill, pointing out that Hon. Richard McBride opposed the bill, while Martin quietly and McInnes openly advocated it until the case was hopeless, when Martin opposed. In this connection Mr. Curtis stated that Hon. Richard McBride was the only man in the opposition who could have led the fight against the government successfully. The present Premier had shown marked generalship and talent in preventing the passage of the Canadian Northern bill and other legislation of a dangerous nature.

LABOR LEGISLATION.

Out of all the muddle, Mr. Curtis continued, the labor people secured more favorable legislation than they got in any other province of the Dominion. One of the bills under this head was the Laborers' Compensation Act, granting $1500 to the survivors of men killed by accident. All such legislation was opposed indirectly by Martin and often openly by McInnes. At the last moment McInnes had sought to insert into this bill a clause that would have made it useless. Another act passed was that protecting trades unions. Another act gave men brought in under misrepresentation redress against the corporation concerned. At the first session this was overwhelmingly defeated, at the second the majority was smaller, while at the third it was made law. He had always stood by labor and would continue to do so. (Appluse.)

POLITICS OF TODAY.

Mr. Curtis then drew attention to the present Conservative administration, stating that it was due to Martin's action that the Liberals had not been called upon to form a government. He would say to Liberals that if they desired power it could be attained only on one condition—the present Conservative administration represented the best elements of Conservatism in public life, and the Liberals must bring out better men and say exactly what they proposed to do. The first step was to repudiate men like Martin and McInnes. It would be calamity for the province to be governed by such men as Martin and Billie McInnes. (Laughter.) He then explained how Mr. McBride secured the premiership.

THE GREAT QUESTION.

Labor and capital, Mr. Curtis asservated, was the issue of the day. A fair means of preventing clashes must be devised, and it was ridiculous to say means could not be devised. A great wrong could always be remedied. Let us arbitrate, said Mr. Curtis with vigor; strikes were always arbitrated in the end, and why not commence at the start instead of the end? Strikes must be stopped—give us industrial peace on fair terms and we would have a province prosperous second to none in the Dominion.

Another issue was to secure better terms from the Dominion government, which was now taking out of the province one or two million dollars annually more than came back to British Columbia.

THE COKE SUPPLY.

Then there was the vital issue of the coke supply. The Crow's Nest Coal company's contract with the government calls for a payment to the province of $2 per ton of coke for every ton shortage to the Canadian smelters. This was not enforced, although the smelters were unable to secure the coke they needed, one reason being that the coal company was shipping coal to the United States. Why didn't they build extra coke ovens last year? The result was that the Granby smelter people were compelled to go to Alberta and open up coal lands of their own, which means a loss of thousands annually to British Columbia.

There were the South East Kootenay coal and oil lands under reserve, on which a large number of locations had been made, and the government was asked to say if these locations were good. Prior had said in the house he believed they were valid, and the speaker was satisfied the locations were perfectly legal. It was clear under the Coal Prospecting Act that the locations were good, and he wanted the lands thrown open to all comers. Why did the government hesitate? He believed it was to permit the Canadian Pacific to go to Ottawa and get the cancellation of their crown grants nullified. He was afraid of a government that was afraid take action. (Applause). The province should throw off the reserve, issue licenses and let thousands go in to occupy the land and build up big interests that the federal government couldn't interfere with.

In order to rebuild the shattered finances of the province he would fix the rates for coal lands as follows: $5 per acre for lignite coal lands, $10 per acre for bituminous coal lands, $15 per acre for coking coal lands and $20 per acre for anthracite coal lands. Then he would reserve ten or twenty thousand acres for the province, and stipulate that all coal, coke and oil should be delivered on cars at a price to be fixed by the government.

Discussing fiscal matters more particularly, Mr. Curtis pointed out that he could get twice the present revenue out of timber lands without hampering the industry, and that he would adjust the taxation of wild lands on a more equitable basis from the viewpoint of the province. Mines would only be taxed on profits, while the railroads would be assessed on a basis more closely approximating the value placed on their property by the companies themselves; instead of a revenue of $17,000 as last year, he could easily get $170,000.

In closing his address, Mr. Curtis expressed the hope that the Liberals would combine with the labor party, and suggested a public meeting to select a candidate by Liberals and labor men. He returned warm thanks for past kindnesses, and closed amid cordial applause.

MINERS' CONFIDENCE.

Before the meeting dispersed, the chairman read the following resolution, which was received with applause:

Whereas, the Rossland Miners' Union, No. 38, W. F. M., in meeting assembled this 30th day of June, 1903, feel themselves satisfied with the way their interests in common with the remainder of the community have been represented by Smith Curtis, the late member for this legislative riding, and

Whereas, they feel that the honorable course which he has pursued has been in every way a distinction possessed by few in the legislative assembly at Victoria, and has been a gain to labor in general and to organized labor in particular, therefore be it

Resolved, that the thanks of the R. M. U., No. 38, W. F. M., be hereby tendered to him for his services in the past, and that our regrets are hereby expressed that he has publicly declared his intention of not being a candidate for the Rossland riding, as we are convinced that throughout his public career he has been a true friend of labor, one that has not hesitated to declare his opinions on matters of public import affecting the whole community, and at the same time has impressed us in common with most people in this province with his absolute uprightness and his statesmanlike qualifications.

H. G. SEAMAN, President.
M. P. VILLENEUVE, Secretary.

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Is successfully used monthly by over 10,000 Ladies. Safe, effectual. Ladies ask your druggist for Cook's Cotton Root Compound. Take no other, as all Mixtures, pills and imitations are dangerous. Price, No. 1, $1 per box; No. 2, 10 degrees stronger, $3 per box. No. 1 or 2, mailed on receipt of price and two 3-cent stamps. The Cook Company Windsor, Ont. Nos. 1 and 2 sold and recommended by all responsible Druggists in Canada.

No. 1 and No. 2 is sold in Rossland by Wallace Bros. and Rossland Drug Co

# A LIVELY SESSION

## THE PAYMENT OF AN ACCOUNT CAUSES SHARP DISCUSSION IN COUNCIL.

## INSURANCE MEN'S CRITICISMS TO BE DEALT WITH BY COMMITTEE.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Last night's meeting of the city council was even more animated than the preceding two sessions. Twice Mayor Dean and Alderman Daniel clashed, and the proceedings were lively.

Just before adjournment, Alderman Dunlop asked why a certain check had not been issued, as the acount had been passed by the council. Alderman Daniel, chairman of the finance committee, stated that the account contained an overcharge, and he had requested the city clerk to send it back for correction. On looking up the minutes it was found that the account was passed on the only night when Alderman Daniel was not at council. Alderman Daniel charged that the account had been railroaded through the council, and was answered by the remark that it was not worth considering, the sum being only a dollar. The finance minister contended that the principle was the same whether the amount was one or one thousand dollars. Finally Mayor Dean said Alderman Daniel had to sign the check, and was met with the response that he (Alderman Daniel) would sign the check when he was ready.

Alderman Daniel had a resolution, which was not seconded, that the city purchase a team for street watering, so that the fire team could be kept at the fire hall where they belonged, thus preventing an increase in insurance rates. Mayor Dean said he was making arrangements for improved fire protection that should satisfy the insurance companies, and that the fire, water and light committee would meet today to prepare a letter to the Fire Underwriters' association.

J. L. G. Abbott sent in his resignation as city solicitor, and it was resolved to prepare a resolution of regret.

Other minor matters were discussed during the course of the evening.

**The Weekly Rossland Miner contains all the news of the Kootenays. Read it and be convinced. Send it to your**

# MUCH GOLD IN SIGHT

## Glowing Accounts of the Poplar Creek Gold Field.

## Prospectors Well Satisfied With What They Found.

KASLO, June 30.—A number of Kasloites returned from the Poplar creek gold fields early this morning, and to say that they are a wildly enthisiastic crowd is putting it mildly.

"Have we got the goods?" said Al Palmer, "we have got the world by the heels. Look at that," as he exhibited a piece of rock with gold sticking out of it. "One half has not been told."

"What next? Well, we are going to wait for the road to open up and then we will decide, but you can rest assured that we will be heard from before many moons.

"I went along Marquis and Gilbert's lead and broke off pieces of rock for thirty feet and found gold all through the rock. Right across the creek, Larson and Mangenson have three claims, and they have a lead with gold particles sticking out in plain sight along the lead. The cartoon in the Spokesman-Review of Saturday, which says this hill is gold, is more than true. The whole hill is red as far as you can see from the creek. Our own claims have good showings."

Jack Reuter was equally sanguine, and says the statements made about the Gold Park group have been in no exaggerated.

"To my mind, words are inadequate to describe the showings. And such a layout, just think of it. In a few days trains will be running within fifteen minutes of our locations."

James Spiers stated: "I do not want anyone to call me a liar, because I won't stand for it, and if I were to tell you one half that is to be found on that gold lead you would not believe me."

"Have Marquis and Gilbert got what they claimed?"

"Well, let me tell you they have got more than they claimed, and so have some others I could mention."

"Is there any more vacant ground?"

"Yes, but you will have to look for it, and you will need a surveyor to find it near the creek. Yes, we are going to develop our ground just as soon as I can arrange my affairs."

Pete Kelly says: "Don't ask me anything about it. Go and see for yourself. Do you see that?"—showing a small deposit of placer gold in a paper. "Well, I got that out of Gilbert and Marquis' dump with my frying pan with one washing."

"How are the ladies doing?"

"Fine. I tell you some of those women made the men sit up and they have some splendid showings."

"Have I any ore with me? Yes. I am having some assays made. The lead is well defined and the world will hear from Poplar creek. One half has not been told."

Col. W. Brayton, manager of the Handy group on Lynch creek, on being interviewed said: "News? Well I could have given you plenty of information about the Poplar creek district last fall, but you would not have believed me if I had told you, and my people were anxious to prospect the ground before giving such miraculous finds publicity.

"The Marquis and Gilbert strike was duplicated last fall by Smith and Rogers on a group on the same ridge, only nearer to Tenderfoot. What have we got? Well, I will tell you, we have forty-one claims and on every one of them we can show you ore that would ordinarily set a novice in mining crazy, but we have honestly got so used to big assays that we are becoming hardened. No sir, there has been no exaggeration. Would I advise you to go in now? Why, yes, but do not run away with the idea that you can find a very valuable claim without any effort. The goods are there, far beyond the realization of the most vivid imagination, but they have to be uncovered. Outfits of everything you need can be had right here in Kaslo, and at right prices. No, you won't need horses in a few days."

# GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC

## Terms of Building Arranged by Government and Company.

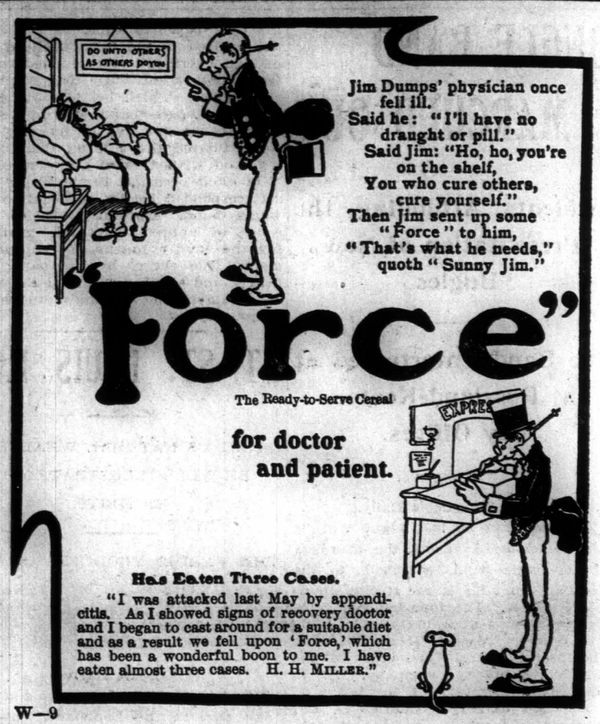
## Customs Revenue for the Year Shows a Big Increase.

OTTAWA, June 30.—The government and the Grand Trunk Pacific have at last made a definite arrangement for the building of a trans-continental railway. The details have not yet been given out, but the government has decided to guarantee the bonds of the undertaking, and a clause will be inserted in the agreement giving the government power to purchase the road at the end of thirty years.

The customs revenue for the Dominion for the twelve months ending June 30th was $36,614,659, an increase of $4,566,868 over the same time last year. For the month of June the increase was $692,471 over May.

The act to incorporate the Columbia River Improvement company was read the third time yesterday.

The minister of justice introduced a criminal code amendment in the house yesterday, forbidding the sale of cigarettes, cigars or tobacco in any form to minors under 18 years. It is also made unlawful for labor unions or other societies to discriminate against men who belong to the militia. Employers and others will be punished who endeavor to prevent by any threats men from joining the militia.

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LILLOOET, FRASER RIVER AND CARIBOO GOLD FIELDS, LIMITED. IN LIQUIDATION.

List of Properties to be Sold by Private Tender, Pursuant to the Directions of the Liquidators.

Trout Lake Mining Division—
Alpha Group (better known as the Broadview Group), comprising nine crown-granted mineral claims, or fractional claims, situated on Great Northern mountain, above Ferguson, B. C., together with two blocks of land, namely, Lot 1144, situated just west of Ferguson townsite, and Lot 2449, situated about two miles north-easterly from Ferguson on the North Fork of Lardeau river, at the foot of Great Northern mountain.
Lands situated on Galena bay, Upper Arrow lake. Three blocks of land comprising, in all, about 650 acres.
Rossland Camp—
The "City of Spokane" and "North Star" mineral claims, together with the buildings and equipment thereon.
Boundary District—
The "Neta" mineral claim, crown-granted, situated in what is known as "Brown's Camp," and the "Queen of Spades" mineral claim, crown-granted, situated in what is known as "Central Camp."
Illecillewaet Mining Division—
The Lanark Group, comprising 15 crown-granted mineral claims, or fractional claims, situated on the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway, near Illecillewaet, B. C.
Further particulars and conditions of sale and forms of tender (which are to be sent in not later than the 15th August, 1903,) may be obtained gratis of the liquidators, College Hill Chambers, College Hill, London, E. C., and J. V. Armstrong, Revelstoke, British Columbia.
Dated 15th June, 1903.

CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS

VULCAN FRACTIONAL MINERAL CLAIM.

Situate in the Trail Creek Mining division of West Kootenay district.

Where located: About 1¾ miles east of Rossland, bounded by the Caro, Mammoth, Antelope and Venus mineral claims.

Take notice that I, Thomas S. Gilmour, free miner's certificate No. B 57,143, acting as agent for Andrew D. Provand, London, England, free miner's certificate No. B57,144, intend 60 days from the date hereof to apply to the mining recorder for a certificate of improvements for the purpose of obtaining a crown grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action under section 37 must be commenced before the issuance of such certificate.

Dated the 11th day of May, 1903.

THOS. S. GILMOUR.