

JARDINE'S MEETING AT METCHOSEN

(Continued from page 6.)

The next speaker, John Jardine, was received with cheers and sustained applause.

"It is necessary," he said, "that this country of gold and fish, fruit and furs, of gigantic forests, whose people's lot should be that of princes as compared with many others, shall be protected. It is a duty incumbent upon us to elect a better government—government which will carry out the will of the people. As free-born Britons, avail yourselves of your rights. Do so."

JOHN JARDINE.

The next speaker, John Jardine, was received with cheers and sustained applause.

After the inspiring address of Mr. Helgesen, he found it difficult to approach his theme.

"It is a most unfortunate thing that the people of British Columbia have seen fit to elect the same people from year to year," he remarked.

"Did these people remain in power much longer, there would be not one acre left for settlement."

The land question is the crux of the present situation. If the land is conserved for the use of the people, if the residue is administered wisely, the greatest good is bound to accrue to the man of this generation as well as to posterity. The McBride government is not doing this. In San Juan, where one can see green grass towering to the heavens, running 31,800 to 50,000 feet to the sea, the areas are falling into the hands, not of people of our race, but of these outsiders. One company has acquired a tract of land bank of Mt. Edinborough 44 miles square.

Did the electors of Esquimalt choose to send a man to the Legislature who would continue this course or one who would support a man, pledged to discontinue it, a man, the Liberal leader, against whom not a word could be said? J. A. Macdonald is pledged to conserve the residue.

KALLEN ISLAND.

Mr. Jardine referred to the Kallen Island matter. The Dominion government had given all the necessary assistance to the G.T.P., and the G.T.P. had entered into a solemn contract to fulfil their part of the obligation. Yet in the face of this what does the McBride government do? They, through intermediaries and into negotiations with the railway, had been able to conduct their nefarious designs directly.

They fixed on 10,000 acres of land at Kallen Island, the statistics of the province one-quarter of this had to be reserved for the province, but 7,500 acres were handed over to these speculators for almost nothing. In December, 1906, the land was worth \$750,000, at a very low estimate, not to the G.T.P., but to people of a very questionable character. Thus in the face of the fact that the G.T.P. was compelled to cross the province, if not to Kallen Island, to some harbor, the government had given them for \$100,000 what would be worth \$750,000, at a very low estimate, not to the G.T.P., but to people of a very questionable character.

"It behoves you gentlemen to elect a member who will support a party which will at no time do anything to bring to your cheeks a blush of shame at such unparalleled conduct," Mr. Jardine commented. "Not a government which had borrowed \$1,000,000 at 5 per cent. when the city of Victoria was paying 4."

In concluding Mr. Jardine expressed his regret that neither Mr. Macdonald nor Mr. McInnes had been able to address a meeting in the neighborhood. Mr. McInnes would speak at Esquimalt the following Saturday night, while he had been in the city of Victoria, he had been returned as Premier he would be able to speak at Metchose.

W. G. CAMERON.

Mr. Cameron, in explaining his presence there that evening, stated that he and his colleagues of the C.P.R. felt the issue of the present election were party questions. The local Liberals stood for the same principles as those at Ottawa, and if these principles could be worked out here, it would be a good thing for British Columbia.

The present government claimed to be the source of the present troubles. He denied it, and pointed to the fact that under the present Dominion government at Ottawa, good times had come to the people of the provinces of both East and West.

Immigration.

For instance, take what British Columbia owed to the Dominion government's immigrants. W. W. Holland, increased population in the prairie provinces there came activity in the building trade and greater demand for lumber. This was one of the causes of British Columbia prosperity.

Continuing, the speaker claimed that the lands of the country, if properly administered, should pay all the revenue required for ordinary purposes without any direct personal taxes. Yet the government had found it necessary to exact the Assessment Act.

He referred to the circumstances under which that Act had been passed. At the opening of the late parliament when the members had been called together, the government had made a poor mouth, and stated that under the present Dominion government at Ottawa, good times had come to the people of the provinces of both East and West.

They succeeded in stampeding the followers, and the result was the \$1,000,000 loan, which they are repaying at 5 per cent. interest on the balance. The liability had to be met and it was done through increased taxation. This in turn fell heavily upon the struggling people throughout the province, upon farmers who had little ready cash, and upon all classes. The speaker referred to the school which the very action of the government placed as so faulty. At first consisting of 120 classes, it had required 120 cents to attend it.

Thus the government, to meet this liability, began economy in the one direction where it could not afford to

economize. This in the face of the fact that it had already upon the statute books a measure that worked admirably in the prairie provinces. In the cities where the municipality was able to assume part of the maintenance, they should do so, while in the country the entire cost was borne by the country as a whole.

By their present policy, the government only pays \$40 for the teacher's salary in the community where the people cannot pay it themselves. The teacher seeks the cities, where the pay is better, and poor children have the cheapest teachers.

The weakness of the system of school taxation lies in the fact that the people of the settlement pay it alone, unassisted by any levy on the large extent of lumber or mining lands which may lay just adjacent to them, and which secure protection and the benefit of the law. It is discriminating in favor of the rich against the poor, the strong against the weak.

Mr. Cameron concluded with an appeal to the electors to elect a government which would carry out the principles for which Mr. Jardine stood, and to contrast them with those evidenced by the administration of the present government. Let them elect which was the better man and use their influence to return him.

R. L. DRURY.

Mr. Drury, upon rising, was received with applause.

He prefaced his remarks with a statement supplementing the previous speaker's words with regard to the school question. The evil had become so acute that already there were 200 permits granted, allowing unqualified people to teach, because properly qualified teachers could not be obtained at the salaries offered.

Not content with the land which they had already squandered, the McBride government was anxious to increase the taxes on the people. Recently he had shown a letter from Premier McBride to the Hon. Wm. Templeman, complaining that the Dominion government was not doing its duty in the province, because it was not selecting its portion of the lands in British Columbia east of the Rockies.

Mr. Templeman had replied that in his opinion this was good thing, as there would be some land available for the bona fide settlers when the G.T.P. arrived.

Mr. Drury proceeded to review the government's financial policy. It may have been necessary to borrow money, but it was necessary to do so in a manner which would support a man, pledged to discontinue it, a man, the Liberal leader, against whom not a word could be said? J. A. Macdonald is pledged to conserve the residue.

While they were paying interest at 5 per cent. on this \$1,000,000, they were on June 30th, 1904, \$300,000 to British Columbia's credit in the bank; on December 31st, 1904, \$400,000; in June, 1905, there was \$500,000; in December, 1905, \$600,000; in June, 1906, \$700,000; in December, 1906, \$800,000; in June, 1907, \$900,000; in December, 1907, \$1,000,000; in June, 1908, \$1,100,000; in December, 1908, \$1,200,000; in June, 1909, \$1,300,000; in December, 1909, \$1,400,000; in June, 1910, \$1,500,000; in December, 1910, \$1,600,000; in June, 1911, \$1,700,000; in December, 1911, \$1,800,000; in June, 1912, \$1,900,000; in December, 1912, \$2,000,000; in June, 1913, \$2,100,000; in December, 1913, \$2,200,000; in June, 1914, \$2,300,000; in December, 1914, \$2,400,000; in June, 1915, \$2,500,000; in December, 1915, \$2,600,000; in June, 1916, \$2,700,000; in December, 1916, \$2,800,000; in June, 1917, \$2,900,000; in December, 1917, \$3,000,000; in June, 1918, \$3,100,000; in December, 1918, \$3,200,000; in June, 1919, \$3,300,000; in December, 1919, \$3,400,000; in June, 1920, \$3,500,000; in December, 1920, \$3,600,000; in June, 1921, \$3,700,000; in December, 1921, \$3,800,000; in June, 1922, \$3,900,000; in December, 1922, \$4,000,000; in June, 1923, \$4,100,000; in December, 1923, \$4,200,000; in June, 1924, \$4,300,000; in December, 1924, \$4,400,000; in June, 1925, \$4,500,000; in December, 1925, \$4,600,000; in June, 1926, \$4,700,000; in December, 1926, \$4,800,000; in June, 1927, \$4,900,000; in December, 1927, \$5,000,000; in June, 1928, \$5,100,000; in December, 1928, \$5,200,000; in June, 1929, \$5,300,000; in December, 1929, \$5,400,000; in June, 1930, \$5,500,000; in December, 1930, \$5,600,000; in June, 1931, \$5,700,000; in December, 1931, \$5,800,000; in June, 1932, \$5,900,000; in December, 1932, \$6,000,000; in June, 1933, \$6,100,000; in December, 1933, \$6,200,000; in June, 1934, \$6,300,000; in December, 1934, \$6,400,000; in June, 1935, \$6,500,000; in December, 1935, \$6,600,000; 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in December, 2101, \$39,800,000; in June, 2102, \$39,900,000; in December, 2102, \$40,000,000; in June, 2103, \$40,100,000; in December, 2103, \$40,200,000; in June, 2104, \$40,300,000; in December, 2104, \$40,400,000; in June, 2105, \$40,500,000; in December, 2105, \$40,600,000; in June, 2106, \$40,700,000; in December, 2106, \$40,800,000; in June, 2107, \$40,900,000; in December, 2107, \$41,000,000; in June, 2108, \$41,100,000; in December, 2108, \$41,200,000; in June, 2109, \$41,300,000; in December, 2109, \$41,400,000; in June, 2110, \$41,500,000; in December, 2110, \$41,600,000; in June, 2111, \$41,700,000; in December, 2111, \$41,800,000; in June, 2112, \$41,900,000; in December, 2112, \$42,000,000; in June, 2113, \$42,100,000; in December, 2113, \$42,200,000; in June, 2114, \$42,300,000; in December, 2114, \$42,400,000; in June, 2115, \$42,500,000; in December, 2115, \$42,600,000; in June, 2116, \$42,700,000; in December, 2116, \$42,800,000; in June, 2117, \$42,900,000; in December, 2117, \$43,000,000; in June, 2118, \$43,100,000; in December, 2118, \$43,200,000; in June, 2119, \$43,300,000; in December, 2119, \$43,400,000; in June, 2120, \$43,500,000; in December, 2120, \$43,600,000; in June, 2121, \$43,700,000; in December, 2121, \$43,800,000; in June, 2122, \$43,900,000; in December, 2122, \$44,000,000; in June, 2123, \$44,100,000; in December, 2123, \$44,200,000; in June, 2124, \$44,300,000; in December, 2124, \$44,400,000; in June, 2125, \$44,500,000; in December, 2125, \$44,600,000; in June, 2126,