MR. McINNES' RECORD IN YUKON TERRITORY

Liberals Asked for an Investigation and His Removal From Office

The Colonist has received a communication from Dawson inclosing copies of resolutions passed by the Yukon Territorial Liberal association and the Young Men's Liberal club of Dawson, which pronounce very severe censure on W. W. B. McInnes in his capacity as commissioner.

The resolution of the Territorial Liberal association, which was passed on July 25, 1906, states in its preamble that "in the opinion of this association the commissioner of the Yukon territory has shown himself wholly unworthy of representing His Majesty the King in any portion of His Majesty's Empire."

Reasons are cited in support of this opinion, which involve certain charges against Mr. McInnes, and the resolution concludes:

"Therefore be it resolved, that this association submit the foregoing to the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and demand investigation of the same and the dismissal of W. W. B. McInnes from the office of commissioner."

This is signed by the president and acting secretary of the Yukon Territorial Liberal association.

In the accompanying letter it is stated that the resolution was transmitted to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who caused a copy to be forwarded to Mr. McInnes, and that the latter's visit to the Dominion capital was the result. The further assertions are made: "Dr. Wells, president of the Yukon Territorial Liberal association, received a letter from Sir Wilfrid, stating that the charges made were of such a character that they could not be overlooked, and promising a searching inquiry. We believe that Mr. McInnes was instrumental in having an illegal and irregular meeting of the association called together for the purpose of denying that the association had passed any such resolution, but they could not do so, and, moved by sheer pity, they passed a resolution declaring that no such resolution was on the minutes."

The investigation promised by Sir Wilfrid Laurier was apparently forestalled by Mr. McInnes' resignation.

The resolution of the Young Men's Liberal club at Dawson was passed on Jan. 2 last, after it was known that Mr. McInnes had resigned. It declares that "during the regime of the late commissioner that consideration was not accorded to the loyal supporters of the government that they had a right to expect."

Subsequent to the receipt of the letter and resolutions, a despatch was sent to the Colonist by a prominent Liberal of the Yukon, in which it is declared that "true Liberals are not in accord with his (Mr. McInnes') administration here."

From this it is plain that Mr. McInnes' conduct in the Yukon did not commend itself to at least a large section of the Liberal party in that territory, the members of which felt it their duty to ask for his removal.

IN DRY DOCK

Kosmos Liner Salatis Is Repaired at Esquimalt—Is New Vessel

Steamer Salatis of the Kosmos line reached Victoria early yesterday morning, and shortly afterward entered the drydock at Esquimalt to be cleaned and painted. The Salatis, which is one of the newest vessels of the Kosmos line, is on her maiden trip. For three months she was used as a receiving ship at Valparaiso following the earthquake of last summer. After being repaired at Esquimalt the steamer will proceed to the Sound to load 700,000 feet of lumber for the Panama canal. Steamer Sala, a sister steamer of the Salatis, is expected soon, and will probably also be docked at Esquimalt.

One of the vessels in the Kosmos line due within the next few weeks is the Hermonthis. The vessel, was the first Kosmos liner to enter port when the service to Puget Sound was inaugurated. Capt. Knudson, now on the Ituri, was master of the Hermonthis on the first trip.

The company has been increasing its service from year to year and beginning this month one of the big vessels will be on Puget Sound every ten days.

A Brampton Fire

Brampton, Ont., Jan. 25.—The most stubborn fire here for some years broke out in the planing mill of the Irvine Lumber & Fuel Co., The adjoining room was used as a drying kiln and was filled with lumber. The three-storey building of the Canada Shoe Company adjoins the room in which the fire started. The firemen succeeded in saving the shoe factory, although considerable damage was done. The sash factory was completely destroyed, with a large quantity of lumber. The loss is heavy, partly covered by insurance.

VICTORY IN PROSPECT FOR THE CONSERVATIVE TICKET

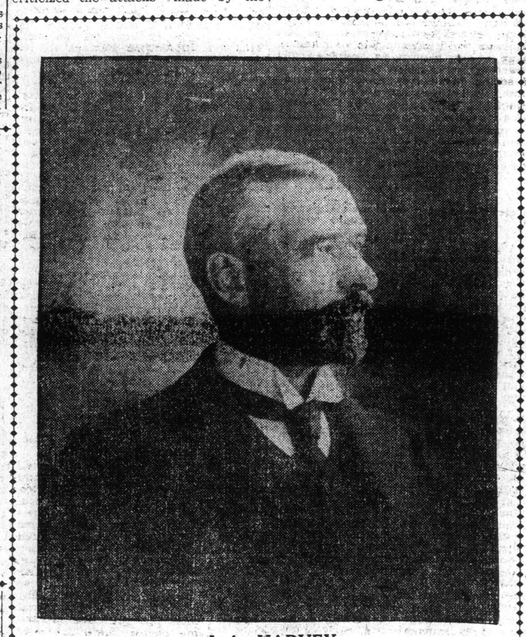
Another Encouraging Meeting Addressed by the Candidates and Other Speakers---Questions Fully Dealt With---The Globe and Mr. McInnes---Mr. Goodeve's Message

G. H. Barnard occupied the chair at a largely attended meeting held last evening at the A. O. U. W. Hall in the interests of the Liberal-Conservative candidates of Victoria. Addresses were delivered by Frederick Davey, H. F. W. Behnsen and H. B. Thomson, three of those asking the support of the citizens who are in favor of endorsing the stable government of the past three years. In addition admirable speeches were delivered by Hon. R. G. Tatlow, the minister of finance; by Joseph Hunter, who scathingly criticized the attacks made by the opposition upon the Kaien Island transaction, illustrating his points by the use of an excellent map of that locality; and by A. S. Goodeve, who reviewed the situation, showing that the people of British Columbia had determined to keep Premier McBride and his government in power with a triumphant majority on the 2nd of February. The remarks of all were liberally applauded, and the gathering dispersed with three hearty cheers for Premier McBride.

G. H. Barnard, the chairman, had no doubt that the four candidates would go in by a sweeping majority. (Applause). He introduced the speakers of the evening, whose names were greeted with enthusiasm.

W. R. ROSS

Former Member and Present Liberal-Conservative Candidate in Fernie



J. A. HARVEY

Liberal-Conservative Candidate in Cranbrook District

JAMES H. SCHOFIELD

Mayor of Trail and Liberal-Conservative Candidate in Ymir District

MR. TATLOW

Hon. R. G. Tatlow was pleased to see such a large attendance. Being a member of the government, he supposed it was necessary that he should say something of what had been done and of what was intended in the future. It was said by the opposition that the administration had no policy. He thought that was beyond consideration, because of the progress that had been made. The country had been brought from financial discredit to general prosperity. When the present government had come into power, Premier McBride and those associated with him had to face a deficit of some $1,000,000. That was the situation which had to be faced. Having been refused a loan from the banks, it was necessary to obtain a loan from eastern insurance companies at a rate of 5 per cent, repayable at the rate of $100,000 per year for ten years. It had been asserted that the government should have gone to London to borrow, and should have spread what was borrowed over a period of forty years in repayment. He wished to say that when the province had wanted money the London market was closed because former governments had promised not to return there for assistance. Thus the $1,000,000 had been obtained, and already two repayments had been made, reducing the total to $800,000. And, he added, there was sufficient available to make the forthcoming payment. (Applause).

Some supporters of the opposition had said that the money borrowed had been allowed to remain idle. He wished to emphatically deny such a statement. An arrangement had been made with the banks by which the rate of interest which the province paid was constantly being reduced. He entered into a minute explanation of the agreement by which this had been accomplished, pointing out that at the end of three years British Columbia would actually not be paying a cent of interest on the original sum. (Enthusiastic applause).

Taxation

In order to meet the exigencies of the situation, taxation had to be increased. But, while the assessments upon the poor man had been augmented, those upon the rich man and corporations had been added to a much greater extent.

It had been stated that the government was dominated by the C. P. R. He asked whether it could reasonably be supposed that there was any truth in this when the facts were considered. One of the first acts of the government upon coming into power was to increase the taxation upon that company to a very material extent. This was so true that on a certain C. P. R. property, taxation had advanced from $12,400 to $66,000. (Applause.)

There was some criticism of the government upon the false belief that the C. P. R. owed the treasury $750,000. That assertion was made because of the fact that certain land concessions were exempt from taxation upon condition that the land should be sold upon terms satisfactory to the administration. There, blocks had been exempted in order that the property might be disposed of upon a basis satisfactory to the people. (Applause.) He wished to say as man to man that the C. P. R. had not by act, promise, or intention, intimated that they would devote to the government cause one dollar during the election. (Applause.) All that was intended was that the government should do the right thing by everybody or any company with which it had dealings. (Enthusiastic applause.)

The Slander Factory

Hon. Mr. Tatlow then related the story of the Kaien Island transaction. He claimed that it was a "good bargain," one in the interests of the province. A nasty charge had been made against the late Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. A number of eastern capitalists had applied for eight coal licenses in the usual way, and they had been issued. He believed that the principals, having been pleased with the way the business had been transacted, had written Mr. Green and offered him stock. Later on the same people asked for the renewal of some licenses on coal lands. This Mr. Green had firmly refused. It would be possible for the course of a few days to give fuller particulars of the matter. Whatever was said, he wished to announce that Mr. Green had never touched the stock which these inventors had thought he had taken, nor had the country been robbed of one acre of its lands. (Applause.)

Good Advertising

Mr. Tatlow spoke of the advertising done in the Old Country by the agricultural department. The fruit of the province had taken many gold medals during the past three years. So much had been done in this way that the name of Western Canada had been made almost a household word in the old land. (Enthusiastic applause). He could go on and tell of numerous other things—small, perhaps, but all tending to the one grand object of building up the country. (Applause). Surely there was some policy in all this. (Hear, hear). If it was the opinion of the electors that the government had done well, then it was their duty to cast their votes for the "solid four" on the 2nd of February.

MR. BEHNSEN

H. F. W. Behnsen believed the good attendance indicated that the four Conservatives would be returned. He had always thought that being a politician was quite a hard job, but so far it had been a pleasure. (Hear, hear, and applause). And he was sure that the same would be the case after polling day, the 2nd of February. He referred to the financial policy of the government, which had been so ably expounded by the finance minister. He would always, if elected, support measures in the interests of the masses. He would not take up the time of the meeting, because there were others present much more able. He retired amid applause.

MR. HUNTER

Joseph Hunter took the platform in the belief that all should do something in the interests of Conservatism. It was not necessary for him to say that the country was in a prosperous condition. To prove that, he wished to point out that in 1903 the revenue was $2,000,000, while in 1906 it had mounted to something like $3,000,000. This he thought, was an instance of the progress which had been made by the province since the advent of the McBride administration. (Applause). At the present time the adjoining provinces were enjoying prosperity, and no less than three railways were on their way west, having British Columbia for a common goal. He said if Victorians were true to their own interests, one of these lines would make its terminus at Victoria or Esquimalt, coming by way of Seymour Narrows. (Applause).

There was one point about the election to which he wished to draw attention—the fact that for the first time the West was threatened by machine politics. A government official had been sent from the East in order to manipulate the "machine." He felt sure in saying that the record of W. W. B. McInnes fully qualified him to take such a position with credit. (Applause).

Speaking of better terms, the speaker eulogized the courageous stand taken by the Premier at Ottawa upon that question. He pointed out that the present government had at last taken a stand, and a determined one, which would likely bring about results. (Applause).

Kaien Island

Taking up the bargain entered into into between the government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway with respect to Kaien Island, the speaker unrolled a map of that part of the northern coast of British Columbia. Upon it the portion ceded the railway by the province was marked in red, and that which the Dominion government proposed selling was indicated by black coloring.

Mr. Hunter pointed out that the 10,000 acres that had been allowed by the provincial authorities for terminal purposes was broken by a block of some 3,800 acres which belonged to the province, and the value of which, naturally, would materially increase with the growth of the new centre.

After explaining the map, the speaker assured his hearers that before the advent of the Grand Trunk Pacific the whole of that country had probably been the most God-forsaken of the known world. (Laughter). He did not think there was a gentleman present who would have accepted 100,000 or 200,000 acres of it if he had had to pay the taxes. In this assertion he wished to except Digby Island. That was a low-lying piece of land, easily cultivated and prettily situated. Naturally, after the Grand Trunk had secured all they could from the government, they looked with longing eyes on the adjoining island, as well as other lands in the vicinity. The island and other desirable sections were included in the Indian reserve, and forthwith an attempt had been made to induce the provincial government to forego its reversionary interest in the 13,000 acres which they wanted. But Premier McBride and his associates had refused, most emphatically and uncompromisingly. (Applause).

Finding that move without result, the railway people had rushed to Ottawa, and for them Sir Wilfrid Laurier had put through an order-in-council strongly advising the provincial government to grant the request of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway officials. But that had had no effect upon the McBride government. They had stood their ground, and still did so. The G. T. P. would not obtain the "potlatch" which they so ardently desired. But, he added, if the Grits were returned to power they would get it the next morning. (Laughter and applause).

Mr. Hunter, pointing to the map, indicated a little strip along the foreshore which was included in the reserve in question, which might be useful to the railway company for terminal purposes. He did not see why they should not be given control providing it was agreed that the province should go in as a partner. In fact, he could see no reason why the Grand Trunk Pacific should not be given what they wished providing British Columbia would thereby derive dividends.

In his despatch to the province Sir Wilfrid Laurier had stated that the new transcontinental railway had need of these reserve lands for terminal purposes. That, he contended, was very near to what was commonly called misrepresentation. Digby island and other portions were on the opposite side of a wide channel, a stretch of water which could never be bridged, and could, therefore, never be used for such a purpose.

Summing up the whole situation, it was his opinion that the attitude assumed by the provincial government in this matter was one which entitled them to the thanks of the people. (Enthusiastic applause.)

A short time ago the "Grits" had been shouting that the government had given away a large area of land. But it had suddenly struck the Liberal orator that the higher the land mentioned was valued the better was the bargain on the part of the province. (Applause.)

It was not his intention to rail against the Grand Trunk Pacific because they had a hard task. He believed that the best policy was to give all a fair deal. (Applause.)

In conclusion he remarked that the Liberal-Conservative party had the "grits" on the run. They were down with the political la grippe, and he felt sure that they would be kept in bed. (Laughter and applause.) He wanted to state that it was the duty of the electors to return the full ticket—the solid four—by a triumphant majority. (Enthusiastic applause.)

MR. DAVEY

Frederick Davey said that it was patent to all that much progress had been made during the past three years. The remarks made by Hon. Mr. Tatlow, the finance minister, were sufficient to prove that the McBride administration had done so well as to be justified in asking for a renewal of confidence.

It had been stated that the prosperity of British Columbia was due to the administration of the Dominion government. To bear this out Mr. McInnes was quoted as saying that the lead bounty had had considerable to do with the improvement. All that had been paid from the federal authorities in that direction was $617,000. Rossland alone had contributed to the Dominion treasury in different ways no less a sum than $893,000. When this was considered it could easily be seen that there was little in the contention of Mr. McInnes, and that the province had progressed through the wise administration of Mr. McBride and those associated with him. (Applause.)

In regard to Mr. McInnes, he thought that his resignation proved one of two things, either that they were not satisfied with his administration of the Yukon or that they were anxious that the machine should be operated to its fullest extent in the present campaign.

He asked for the support of the people on behalf of the four local candidates. They were running in the interests of good government. (Applause.)

MR. THOMSON

H. B. Thomson did not intend taking up time. Coming up right after him was A. S. Goodeve, who had come some distance for the purpose of speaking to the electors of Victoria. He spoke in scathing terms to the arrival of W. W. B. McInnes as the operator of the Ottawa "machine." He asked permission to read an extract from the Toronto Globe, the leading Liberal organ of the country, in reference to Mr. McInnes, the man who was sent out, to all intents, to take charge of the province. It follows:

Toronto Globe, April 6, 1897.

"Let him carry his rhetoric to Victoria if he wants to manage the local affairs of his province, and let him abuse the Globe to his heart's content. He has, perhaps, the right to lie and slander under the protection of the privileges of Parliament, and we cordially agree that he is an expert in the business."

Globe, April 8, 1897.

"If the Globe made an attack upon Mr. McInnes it was in reply to a scandalous charge against this paper made deliberately on the floor of Parliament, a charge that we brand as a falsehood and its author as a liar and a slanderer."

Personally he would not care to say anything against Mr. McInnes, but that was the opinion of the leading Liberal organ of the country. It dubbed him as "a liar and a slanderer." (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. Thomson spoke of the platform enunciated by J. A. Macdonald, K. C., the so-called leader of the Liberal party. In these remarks particular reference was made to the mining laws The speaker contended that the action of the McBride government in allowing this legislation to remain unchanged had materially contributed to the advance along those lines during the past three years and the present prosperity. For instance, in plank 6 of the Liberal platform, Mr. Macdonald wants a change in the placer mining laws; under present conditions the number of leases taken out in last year were as follows: 1903, 27; 1904, 42; 1905, 43; 1906, 168, which went to prove Mr. Macdonald did not understand what he was talking about. The opinion was expressed that investigation would show that every plank in the platform of the opposition had as little real substance. (Applause.)

Concluding he pointed out that every elector in casting a ballot for the Solid Four would be voting for the continuance of stable government. (Enthusiastic applause.)

MR. GOODEVE

A. S. Goodeve spoke of the pleasure it gave him to speak to fellow-Conservatives upon the issues of the campaign. Coming from the interior, he felt sure that those present and all residents of the coast would be pleased to hear that there, as here, they were proud of the record of the past three years. Formerly it had been necessary for those wishing to stimulate the mining and other industries to seek capital. Now that was not necessary; in fact the investors sought places to put their money, being confident that the good government in power would continue the stable conditions of the past three years.

He said that all through the interior Premier McBride had been greeted enthusiastically. In every case the halls were crowded, and all in attendance listened with close attention to what was said. He had met Mr. McInnes, the real leader of the opposition, but had been disappointed in that he had not advanced any policy. He confined himself to trifling criticism of the policy of the administration.

It had been stated that Mr. McInnes had resigned from the position of governor of the Yukon for the disinterested purpose of helping in the government of British Columbia. But it was a peculiar thing that just as the province was beginning to be prosperous politicians were flocking from Ottawa for the purpose of endeavoring to obtain possession of the treasury benches. (Applause.)

He commended the timber bill of the government. Under the old act the leases were neither transferable nor renewable. Under the new act the timber cruisers could go out and stake limits and then go with confidence to the capitalists and arrange for the inauguration of industry. Also the price of licenses was raised to such an extent that the revenue from that source during the past year had been $200,000 more than would otherwise be the case. There was in addition a commendable provision which empowered the government to increase or reduce the price of licenses as might be expedient. He claimed that it was an exceedingly statesmanlike measure.

The speaker remarked that the addresses already given had dealt comprehensibly with the C. & W. and other deals. It had been explained by the Minister of Finance that the increase of taxation had been an unpleasant task. Now all was changed, and it was intended to reduce the general taxation as much as possible. Altogether the policy of the past three years had been progressive and had wrought marked prosperity. He referred to the increased mineral output, which, he argued, was directly attributable to the present administration. (Applause.)

(Continued on Page Ten).

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