

TIMBER IS SCARCE

Oppositionists Find That Reorganization Is Not Easy.

LEADERS ARE IN DOUBT

There is a Row in Progress as to the Cabinet Positions—Messrs. Bodwell and Davis Do Not Favor the Aspirations of Cotton in That Direction.

VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—[Special.]—It is stated upon the very best authority that the oppositionists are experiencing very great difficulty in the work of organization for the approaching provincial elections.

So serious is the situation, indeed, that it is now very problematical whether E. V. Bodwell and E. P. Davis will enter the political arena as candidates in the interests of the opposition party.

It is well known that both Bodwell and Davis stipulated that nothing short of cabinet positions would be considered sufficient to gain their consent to actually assist in the overthrow of Mr. Turner's administration. This promise was given by those having whatever authority is available for entering into such an agreement.

Both gentlemen arrived at a satisfactory agreement regarding future arrangements, and everything looked O. K. But a little cloud has arisen on the horizon which has dimmed the splendid prospect.

Now, Messrs. Bodwell and Davis disagree with him in this opinion, and there lies the danger of a split in the ranks of the party that may prove disastrous.

The altered condition of affairs has certainly improved Mr. Cotton's political chances; and this is what bothers E. P. Davis. The latter gentleman is a staunch Liberal, as everyone knows, and he has stated quite plainly his aversion to lending his efforts to a movement that would result in elevating to office Messrs. Cotton and Williams, and dyed-in-the-wool Conservatives of that type.

Mr. Davis has, it is whispered, stated quite emphatically that he will not consent to become a candidate unless Mr. Cotton is side-tracked. As it does not seem likely that this can be done, Mr. Bodwell, who will not be a candidate unless Mr. Davis is one also, has to use an expressive but inelegant phrase, "jumped the traces," and there are long faces in local Liberal circles thereat.

It is undoubtedly true that the one man whom the Turner government fears more than other in the province of British Columbia today is E. V. Bodwell. No one disputes that; and there are rumors about that strong endeavor being made by the government and its friends to prevail upon Mr. Bodwell to decide not to become a candidate in the interests of the opposition party.

Those who have some faint conception of the vast influence wielded by the government can reasonably be pardoned for harboring the belief that possibly Mr. Bodwell, because of the persuasive eloquence of the government, is induced to see the error of his ways and promise to remain untroubled.

The Minister correspondent is able to state most positively that Hon. D. W. Higgins has determined to resign the speakership immediately after the opening ceremonies at the formal housewarming of the new parliament buildings.

The election of a new speaker is certain, then, to be the first danger point in the progress of the approaching session. It is confidently asserted by the opposition that in the event of the government nominating W. W. Walkem, M. P. P., for the office the government will be defeated.

The government are not, apparently, much disturbed over the threats of Messrs. Kellie and Higgins to "make it warm" for them on the floor of the house this session. While the ability of the former gentleman is made delightfully manifest by that immortal rhetorical gem "Let'er flicker," which drew forth thunderous applause on the memorable occasion on which it was delivered by the member for West Kootenay, it cannot be denied that Mr. Higgins may confidently be expected to say some very unpleasant things in a forceful manner, and so to conduct himself, on the whole, as to be considered a valuable gain to the ranks of the opposition.

vincial government are much chagrined at being deprived—as they apparently are—of one of the best arguments they believed available in criticizing the record of the Turner administration unfavorably. The large concessions granted Mackenzie & Mann in the Canadian north-west in return for the building of the Yukon railway are much more generous than those made by the provincial government to the Cassiar Central Railway company for an undertaking that will be equally as beneficial to the country as the Yukon railway project.

It may be taken as a fact that the Liberal section of the opposition party, at any rate, will refrain from any allusion during the approaching provincial campaign to what they were pleased, a short time ago, to stigmatize as "that atrocious Cassiar Central railway deal."

The Parliament Buildings. Interest in the opening ceremonies on Thursday next of the new provincial parliament buildings increases daily. Referring to the new buildings it may be said that here again the opposition find "the feet knocked from under them."

While it is well known that a large section of the people on the mainland disapprove of the large expenditure on the parliament buildings, the argument advanced by the oppositionists in the house that the undertaking was unwarranted and unjustifiable in the light of recent events, falls somewhat flat. Even the staunchest friends of the administration were compelled to admit that at the time the project was first mooted critics were justified to a certain extent in protesting against such a large expenditure of money at a time when depression prevailed everywhere and the province was heavily in debt.

Both Wants to Be Speaker. Your correspondent learns that another aspirant for the position of speaker in the local house has arisen in the person of J. Booth, M. P. P. As stated before, however, H. D. Helmcken, M. P. P., is most likely to be selected by the government as a successor to Hon. D. W. Higgins.

In connection with the appointment of a new speaker it may not be uninteresting to record that Dr. Walkem, M. P. P., is making the fight of his life for the plum. When spoken to on the subject and asked if it was true that he may be elected to the position, the wily doctor throws up his hands in holy horror and declares: "Oh, no! I wouldn't take it if it was offered me." It is known, however, that the doctor is laying a snare for the position, and has engaged the services of his friends to write anonymous letters to the press advocating his elevation to the much-coveted position.

Deane's Candidacy Unfavorable. In local opposition circles the selection of F. J. Deane, editor of the Kamloops Sentinel, as a candidate in the opposition interest to contest Chief Commissioner Martin's seat at the approaching general election, is looked upon with considerable disfavor. Some contend that it was the best choice that could be made under the circumstances, but it is conceded on all sides that Mr. Deane will not be elected.

Need Campaign Funds. The question that is giving the oppositionists the most worry, however, is that of the raising of a campaign fund. The one man possessed of enough means to donate enough of the "sinews of war" for the proper conduct of the campaign is Hewitt Bostock, M. P.,—has, it is said, on the quiet, stated emphatically that he may not be looked for for any contributions to be used to assist in the elevation of office of hide-bound Tories like Messrs. Cotton and Williams of Vancouver.

It will readily be seen from the foregoing that the outlook for the success of the oppositionists at the coming elections is gloomy indeed. In the event of the Turner government being returned to power, which seems, as matters are now shaping, very probable, various cabinet changes would follow after the elections. R. P. Rithet, M. P. P., is so little interested in public affairs that his well-known aversion to parliamentary life may be gratified by his retirement.

They May Be Retired. Another item on the program in this regard is the vacating of their portfolios by Messrs. Baker and Martin. There are many friends of the administration who would not be displeased if this change should occur.

D. M. Carley of the Nelson Economist, is in Victoria, it is said, on a political mission. This gentleman's record is such that any party would be justified in wishing his opposition rather than his support. The day has gone past when "pushers" of the Tammany hall stripe can be any aid to political success in this province.

A FUNNY INCIDENT. The Spokane Route Gives a Party Considerable Trouble. A. H. MacNeill, who returned Friday from the coast, tells a funny incident about the much vaunted "Spokane" route to the Klondike. A party of eight St. Louis men, headed by Dawson City, decided on reaching Seattle in that trip by the coast route, but were disappointed, and attracted by the plentiful advertising given "Spokane's" route, they turned around and headed for that town, with the intention of making it their starting point. The party arrived in that town safely, but on looking about for the road to the Klondike they discovered that the trail commenced at Ashcroft, 500 miles away, and to reach Ashcroft the Klondikers must either travel by Rossland and Revelstoke or by Seattle, which they had just left! They choose the Revelstoke route, and will get their supplies at Ashcroft, the starting point of the trail, but they are still marvelling at the audacity of Spokane in claiming to have a route for Klondike.

A MINING DEAL.

Three Claims in Nelson District Sold For \$5,000. NELSON, Feb. 2.—[Special.]—Another mining deal in Nelson district properties was completed yesterday, when Messrs. Reisterer and Clements of this city became owners of the three mining claims, the Bismuth, Squire and Lead-creek, four miles and a half east of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway, one mile from the Union Jack claim near Salmo. The purchase price was \$5,000.

The Bismuth shows six veins varying width from two to seven feet carrying iron pyrites and galena. The Squire shows four veins 10 to 12 feet in width, carrying iron pyrites and galena. The Lead-creek shows one vein four feet in width carrying iron pyrites and arsenic. The formation in each claim is porphyry and slate. The sellers are well known local parties and the claims give a good showing as far as developed.

The bond of the Last Chance group on Toad mountain, one and a half miles from Cottonwood lake, was taken up yesterday by Messrs. Wilson Bros., who local parties and the claims give a good showing as far as developed.

The contract for 100 feet of tunneling on the Golden Dale property, about 200 yards from the Silver King, on Toad mountain, has been awarded to H. Young and C. W. Townsend for \$1,700. The Golden Dale is a copper-gold proposition and as far as developed gives good value.

The Winnipeg & Eureka Gold Mining company, of which D. D. Birks, of Rossland, is treasurer, sent out a force of men yesterday with a large quantity of supplies to their claim on Toad mountain, about two miles from the Silver King. It is the intention of the company to open up the claim and drive a tunnel to strike the lead.

Carlyle Will Soon Resign. VICTORIA, Feb. 3.—W. A. Carlyle is about to resign his position as provincial mineralogist to accept the position of general superintendent and consulting mineralogist of the British American corporation, which has recently acquired properties in British Columbia and of which Hon. C. H. Mackintosh is the head in this province.

FIRE HEADQUARTERS. How Chief McKinnon Purposes to Have It Laid Out. Wilson McKinnon, the chief of the fire department, has completed the plans for the new fire hall to be erected on Lincoln street in the rear of O'Hearn's clothing store. Operations commenced yesterday moving the present hall to its new site. The ground floor will be divided into three compartments—one for the hose wagon, another for the hook and ladder truck. Each compartment will have swinging doors opening out upon Lincoln street. In the rear of the ground floor will be the stalls for the horses. At present one team will be used, and it will be equipped with regular drop harness, such as is used in the first class fire departments all over the country.

A stairway will lead to the second floor, which will be divided into three compartments. The largest of these, in the middle of the hall, will be 14x28 feet in size, and it will be utilized as the general reading and sitting room for the firemen. A sliding door opens from the room with the stairs. The second story will also be equipped with four sleeping rooms, capable of accommodating from 12 to 15 firemen. The chief will have his office on this floor.

On the northeast corner of 40 building will be the hose house, over 40 feet high in which the hose will be dried. It is expected that the building will be complete in about two weeks.

Want Waterways Improved. An amendment has been added to the river and harbor bill, now pending before the United States congress, providing for the expenditure of \$50,000 for the improvement of the Okanagan river to the boundary line. The source of the Columbia, and has important because it runs through a country that has many valuable mines and fine farming and grazing land. The residents on this side of the line would now like to have the river and lakes between Lake Osoyoos and Lake Okanagan made navigable, because it would give them an outlet, via the United States, until more railroads are built into that section. Besides there are some sorts of products that they are compelled to present to get from the United States. The coming provincial parliament will be requested to make an appropriation to improve these waterways so as to render them navigable. It is claimed that the situation that a small sum would render the waterways between the two lakes navigable.

LOCAL BREVITIES. The firemen have decided to hold their ball in the opera house on Friday, February 21. Emil Dreyfus' orchestra will furnish the music. The mayor and aldermen have sent invitations to the coming winter carnival to the city officials of the chief towns throughout the province and Washington. A party of four will leave this city today for the Canadian Pacific railway, for Ashcroft. From thence they will go to Dawson City. They hope to return in a year or two with large fortunes. The Rossland Literary circle is studying Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" and is also reading a handbook of mineralogy. Thursday evening the club had an outing together at the skating rink. There has been an active demand lately for Red Mountain View, and large blocks have been ordered, with the seeming intention of purchasing a controlling interest. The property adjoins the St. Elmo Consolidated, and has been developed by means of a tunnel.

THE COMPANIES' ACT.

The Government Promises to Give Certain Changes Its Consideration. A. C. Galt, barrister, is back from the coast, where he was engaged in legal business. Mr. Galt, it will be remembered, made an interesting address on the companies' act before the board of trade several weeks ago, and the suggestions that he put forward at that time while in Victoria Mr. Galt conferred with some of the members of the government regarding the revision of the act at the coming session of the legislature.

"The representatives who put the present bill through seem fully to realize its cumbersome nature," said Mr. Galt. "I had an interview with Assistant Attorney-General Smith, and he requested that the mining men and the barristers of the camp communicate with him regarding their views on the revision of the act. He promised to give such a recommendation his serious consideration."

Mr. Galt expects shortly to call a meeting of the board of trade to draw up a recommendation along the lines requested by Mr. Smith.

SCHOOL ESTIMATES. Fourteen Thousand Needed for Improving the Schools and Grounds. The school board trustees are busy at present preparing an estimate of what will be required for the betterment of the public schools and grounds during the coming fiscal year. This work is being done at this early date as it is in charge of negotiating the interests of the school department can be laid at the door of the trustees. An appropriation will be necessary to complete the two unfinished rooms in the eight-room schoolhouse now under construction and to furnish it with desks, a heating apparatus, and to level off and fence the grounds. It will also be necessary to add four schoolrooms to the old building on Kootenay avenue, and to level and fence the grounds. An important matter will be the furnishing of desks for the new school and the additional rooms in the old school, and this will cost quite a sum. The directors were reticent and refused to make public the estimate they had made, but it is thought it will not fall far short of \$14,000.

The new eight-room school building is getting along well, and it is now thought it will be ready for occupancy by the end of the present month. Mr. Hunter, the contractor, is pushing the work as fast as possible. It should be speedily completed, and the reason that the hired quarters at present in use are not suited for the purpose for which they are used.

THE KLONDIKE RUSH. It Is Already Resulting in Benefit to Kootenay. "The mining brokers in Vancouver and Victoria," said William K. Ealing, who returned Friday from the coast, "are almost unanimous in the opinion that the Klondike excitement will be the greatest benefit Kootenay could possibly have, and when it is remembered that these same men have been among the most extensive operators in Kootenay, their opinions ought to be worth something. They take the view that the great volume of eastern and English capital to be attracted by the glittering Alaskan prospect, will eventually turn from that field with a rush to the certainties of Kootenay, where they can look before they buy. At the present time there is more capital in Vancouver for investment here than ever before. Investors are not going to exchange \$50,000 or \$100,000 for a prospect, but they are willing enough to purchase at a stated sum, after having satisfied themselves by development that the property is worthy of further operations."

Mr. Ealing leaves today for Nelson and the Slokan country, in the interests of THE MINER, and will there arrange for an improved news service, the purpose of which will be to present to his readers accurate knowledge of the progress of development of the mines and prospects in the camps of that section. This has been deemed essential by reason of the wide field which THE MINER covers, with readers who are interested in one or more of the various camps in Kootenay.

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SILVER

Metallurgists of the Emmen

DERIDE HIS

One States That but Hardly Protesting Theorist the Mineral E

Professor Steph

chemist of New York the world with he has discovered long been sought and alchemists, tion of silver into that he subjects pressure, which tense cold. This structural change least 75 per cent He claims that he \$10 an ounce, and chinery, there w limit to the output of silver held out learning how the into gold was a and metallurgist Dr. Emmens, se interviewed. Here L. H. Long, a chemist, said he was a close study, ing paragraphs in reference to it his opinion the silver was a inventor was decei thought that it sible that Dr. Emmens' secret process of mining C. C. Woodhoo eer and metallur is that when the specialists now up, and in the shares for a time of the public a talk among the laymen, but the them only a pas opinion summe persistent quest there is nothing ing of silver in the patent offic issue him a pate had nothing to do with the patent specialists it would take a Emmens to fool.

"Professor, do it is possible to ch a process, just as by putting in su maganese?" "No, sir; I do There are 64 ele and each one from the others from each other can be accompli chemist. Gold and separate sil much difference kingdom as the dog in the s sure, an alloy c metals, but ea serves its disti specific gravity, hardness, and after it has tures. An allo out of the run as easily as the yesterday. Wt veins together, united for cent easy to divorce for an hour. Dr. Emmens in Dr. Marsh, a sayer, said: "The alleged disci barely possib It has for a anons of sil same group source, and a common sou where it came one element, each metal in common to a which it belon such group. Some theorist advance the metals of each kind of atom o further than t that there c common orig the situation, these fine sp possible, but is something. Dr. Emmens, Mr. Girdwo and said that ter any seri was not prep as to the cla and was abe Looking at th did not think effect, howev the financial world, the important, a have one im would be to Klondike. Transm

Edross M lessor Emm silver in chemical sta as showing would no m than has a called elem which so fa The prop studied in lar elem are eling their weigh Under the