

AN UNPARALLELED SCENE

Accompanies the Attempt to Place Joe Martin in Power.

Details of an Occurrence Unprecedented in the History of Canadian Legislative Bodies.

It is probable that the scene enacted in the legislative assembly yesterday afternoon is without a parallel in the history of the British government. On the part of the members the action was carefully prearranged, and so far as their part was concerned there was no hitch. It all went like a well written play at the theater and it will pass upon the records of this province as the most dramatic affair that ever took place in connection with provincial legislative history. Undoubtedly it was a great surprise to his honor and also to Hon. Mr. Martin, who had not been taken into the confidence of the house in the matter.

One of the most significant factors in helping to inflame popular prejudice and the feeling of the members against the government was the appointment of Mr. Joseph Martin as the late Premier's successor, and the strange manner in which that fact was made known to the house and the country. It was practically wrung out of Mr. Martin drop by drop, so to speak; not frankly and freely announced at once to the house and people. These things roused a very bitter feeling and prepared the way for the most extraordinary spectacle ever witnessed in a British house of representatives. The course adopted by the members was arranged on Wednesday night and both sides found themselves bound in common cause against the governor in his action. Party differences, all grudges whatsoever were dropped in face of what some of the members did not hesitate to call the common enemy of house and people. With a full understanding of what their course would be the members went down to the chamber.

It was a lovely spring day; the air filled with the gladness of returning summer, the balmy aroma of the woods and the twittering of birds in the sunshine. "All the world and his wife," as it seemed, repaired to the legislature, and soon the galleries were filled to their utmost capacity with men whose faces clearly indicated that they expected to see something unusual. The ladies' gallery could scarcely have accommodated another fair spectator, and many of them were sprinkled through the general galleries, their gay toilettes setting off with very pretty effect the dull costumery of the men folk. By 2 o'clock there were only a few members present on the floor of the house, but in the corridors a stormy hum of conversation proved that great events were on the tremble. Members stood in groups irrespective of party and eagerly discussed the situation of things. Then the speaker took the chair at 2:10 p. m. and prayers were read, the vast audience reverentially standing in silence and most of the members present. Almost before the people had resumed their seats Mr. Prentice was on his feet and every head was inclined to hear what he said. It was a question of privilege, and he moved, seconded by Captain Irving:

"That this house has no confidence in the honorable third member for Vancouver city, Mr. Joseph Martin, who has been called in by the lieutenant governor to form a government."

Wild cheers burst from the galleries and the members joined in the overwhelming note of approval. Silence having been restored at call of order from the speaker and sergeant at arms, Mr. Speaker declared that this motion would require two days' notice and that it could only be moved by the unanimous consent of the house. Of course, if the house expressed its wish the motion could be put. This the house did with one of the heartiest "ayes" ever heard in the assembly hall. The motion was then put and resulted as follows:

For—Messrs. Henderson, Semlin, Cotton, Well, Prentice, Macpherson, Ralph Smith, Tisdall, Deane, Neill, Green, Munro, Helgeson, Kidd, Kellie, McKechnie, Humé, Baker, Turner, Higgins, Bryden, Ellison, Irving, McPhillips, Helmcken, McBride, Clifford, Booth, Pooley, A. W. Smith—30.

Mr. Kinchant left the house, declining to vote.

Against—Mr. J. M. Martin. At this moment, amid deafening applause for the carrying of the resolution, Mr. Speaker received order to remove the bar of the house, as his

honor and retinue were waiting to enter; and the sergeant at arms hurried to the brass rail that means so much in the pomp and circumstance of parliamentary government, and hoisted it up and back. The big doors at the north end of the hall were then thrown wide open and a spectacle was unfolded to view that brought a buzz of admiration from the assembled throng. His honor, resplendent in gorgeous gold laced uniform, cocked hat with white ostrich plumes, carrying a gold hilted court rapier, was seen for a moment standing under the full glare of the brilliant sunshine that streamed in from the dome; behind him, in formation of two deep, were several naval, military and militia officers, whose gaudy uniforms heightened the effect of the picture.

The imposing pageant advanced at slow march up the center aisle toward the throne, and his honor slowly mounted the steps. It was noticed that between him and Mr. Speaker Forster not a movement of any kind in salutation was made. The two men simply looked straight at one another, then, the sergeant at arms having removed the mace, Mr. Speaker slowly turned away and went down the left aisle to the floor of the house, his honor immediately taking the chair. The officers grouped themselves on the steps and on the dais beside his honor. All this took only a few moments to do, but while this was going on on the platform every member of the house had left the floor going out by the doors nearest their own seats, and when his honor looked up after sitting down it was to behold the strangest spectacle that ever greeted the eyes of a representative of Queen Victoria, or any other British monarch. Not a soul to be seen on the floor of the house from the foot of the throne to the north door, where an old man, apparently wandered for the time being, stood peering into the hall, fainly undecided whether to enter and take a seat or not. From the galleries burst a storm of derisive laughter, calls and rappings. The officers of the escort seemed much embarrassed. His honor visibly whitened and appeared for the moment nonplused. He coughed slightly, put out his hand toward the private secretary, withdrew it and pulled down the peak of his cocked hat; then pressed his spectacles more closely to his eyes. Then he took from the secretary's hands the copy of a speech. It was upside down, so he turned it round and coughed again. The uproar in the galleries continued; the naval and military officers fidgeted a little and looked somewhat uncomfortable and much surprised. It was painful to observe the nervousness of his honor, who pressed his hands together in evident agitation, and for the time being seemed not to know what to do. Mr. Joseph Martin stood near the clerk's desk as impassive as a statue; he showed signs of neither agitation or anger. His was, perhaps, the only countenance in the whole assemblage that was absolutely immobile.

His honor rose slowly, the speech in his hands, bowed with formal motion to the empty benches, and apparently began to read the speech, for a wild outburst of jeering laughter, applause, rappings, stampings and cries came from the galleries and drowned his opening sentence. His honor went on in a tremulous voice at first, and seemingly finding it difficult to keep his attention and thought to the printed paper. At every reference to the house the galleries again boomed forth derision and applause. Some strident voiced spectator yelled at intervals, "Where are they?" at which pleasantry the disorder was renewed tenfold. Amidst this uproar his honor went doggedly on to the end of the address, the final sentence of which caused pandemonium to break loose again. "I now release you from further attendance," it ran, and as he bowed to the empty, silent house, eerie in its emptiness and silence, the galleries fairly shrieked with laughter, and derisive comments were shouted by men who hung over the edge. The only member of the assembly who heard the speech read were Messrs. Joseph Martin and Speaker Forster, the one standing on the right the other on the left of the throne. Immediately the speech was read, his honor stepped down from the chair, followed in two deep order by his escort, and marched slowly down the center aisle toward and through the north door.

Cheers, hisses, groans, hoots, stampings, rappings—a perfect hurricane of sound—accompanied the march of the vice regal party, all the way to the exit, the galleries being frantic with excitement. One man screamed ironically across the head of his honor to the frenzied crowd on the other side: "Three cheers for MacInnes." Howls of laughter and renewed thunders of applause and hisses and boings intermingled, greeted this sally. No sooner had the last man of the escort issued

from the hall into the rotunda than the members surged back into the chamber from the corridors amidst the uproarious applause of the galleries. The tumult continued for some minutes. Then Mr. Price Ellison, waving his hat found his head and addressing the galleries shouted "We are the people!" This brought a fresh demonstration from the assembled throng. Mr. Pooley then shouted and waved for order, and at length was heard crying: "I move Mr. Forster take the chair." Renewed cheering hailed the motion, and Mr. Forster sat down at the committee desk and rapped for order. This having been secured, Mr. Helmcken seconded by Mr. McPhillips, moved the patriotic resolution as printed in yesterday's Times, which was unanimously carried, and after singing "God Save the Queen" with fervent enthusiasm the crowd poured tumultuously out of the assembly hall and across James Bay Bridge.—Victoria Times, March 6.

Henry Cowley in Skagway.

The following from the Skagway Alaskan will be read with no small degree of amusement by those who were acquainted with Henry Cowley during his stay in Dawson, where he was always looked upon as a good young man, and a trusted employe etc, but he was never known as being the great promoter of gigantic mining schemes of which he is accredited by the Alaskan. While it is not likely that Henry took to smoking "hop" after leaving Dawson, the "fill" he perpetrated on the Alaskan bears all the earmarks of a pipe dream. Here it is:

"Henry Cowley arrived yesterday, 20 days from the Klondike capital. He is on his way to the outside in the interest of a mining proposition with which he is connected. Mr. Cowley reports that eight days after Knoblesdorff and Campbell arrived in Dawson from Nome, two other men came in with news of a big mining discovery they had made within 100 miles of Nome. Mr. Cowley says: "I formed a partnership with the men and furnished them with supplies and they have started back to the discovery. I am going out with the purpose of obtaining financial aid. The discovery made by my partners is reported by them to be one of the greatest ever made in the north. As to just how rich their claims are I cannot say; for I have no other evidence than what they told me. However, I believe them. "My partners have also explored, and prospected of late in Siberia, opposite the Nome coast, and have found fabulous gold fields. They report to me the country they were in as a low country something after the condition in which I find Skagway to be just now, covered with a thin ice. Gold, they said, could be picked up right out of the earth. The earth was literally filled with the precious nuggets.

"However, the land of their Siberian discoveries was in the czar's domain, and they withdrew to the American side, and for the time at least, are satisfied to reap the harvest from the great auriferous fields they have located in Uncle Sam's domain. "I cannot divulge more of the valuable information I have, but I say that probably I shall go to London, New York or some other great financial center to put our company on operative basis.

"It is barely possible I shall take up the work of endeavoring to get a charter from the czar for the working of the Siberian discoveries. I have declared my intentions to become an American and my partners are naturalized, but we cannot get all the privileges under the free mining policy Russia recently extended to American miners that we wish. I should like to get a special charter, something like the British South Africa company holds. Then I could interest capital from some other nation, Great Britain, for instance, and work the fields on a great scale."

Information Wanted.

Mr. Rogers, of Cribbs & Rogers, is in receipt of an inquiry from Mrs. W. J. Sharp, of Sault Ste. Marie, in reference to her brother, James Cameron, of Lillooet, B. C., his family not having heard from him during the past two years.

Bound Homewards.

Messrs. Rogers and Milne, of the Parsons Produce Co., leave for the coast Sunday. They will visit the home house of the company, Mr. Rogers remaining on the outside while Mr. Milne will return to Dawson at the opening of navigation.

Mr. Hansen will be left in entire charge of the business here as before, he having conducted the affairs of the concern to the entire satisfaction of the company. Mr. Hansen recently returned to Dawson with Mr. Rogers, the general manager of the P. P. Co., having spent several months on the outside for a winter's vacation. Mr. Rogers has just returned from an extended trip

over the creeks and will report to his company the wonderful activity manifested in the mines and the great possibilities of Dawson.

Private dining rooms at the Holborn. When in town, stop at the Regina.

Parties wishing to sell or buy mining property call on or address Norton D. Watling, Grand Forks.

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