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THE ALBERNI MEETING.

Premier Davis Deals With the Alternating Planks of the Opposition Platform.

One Set of Cries for the Cities and Another for the Country—Alberni's Interests.

A crowded house responded to the invitation of Hon. Mr. Davis to meet him at the Court House, Alberni, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 26. Mr. Kirkpatrick having been called to the chair, in a brief speech introduced the Premier, who on coming forward was greeted with applause. Hon. Mr. Davis compared the progress of the district with that of Cowichan in the early days, when the only means of communication with the outer world was by the steamer Sir James Douglas, which had been put on by the old Crown Colony government. Alberni now had the advantage of Cowichan at that stage of development, a wagon road connecting Alberni with Nanaimo, whereas Cowichan had only a bridle trail. The government, in the case of Alberni, have aided the settlers by construction of fair roads and bridges, and have also subsidised a steamer to make fortnightly trips. Compliments had reached him of the rates, which he hoped to see placed upon a satisfactory footing. The government opponents have sought to turn sentiment against the government on account of the land grant made to the E. & N. Railway Co. under the Settlement act, but the opposition are dishonest in their attacks, in most others, for they omit to tell that it was they themselves who first originated the railway grant, under an act passed by the government of which Mr. Beaven was a member in 1882, authorizing the grant to the Clements syndicate of some 150,000 acres more land than was afterwards granted to the E. & N. railway under the Settlement act. The country clamored for the railroad, and in passing the Clements act Mr. Beaven's government were simply complying with the popular will, in endeavoring thus to secure a railroad to the north of the island, the enterprise, however, came to nothing, although \$200,000 was deposited by the Clements syndicate with the government, which amount was forfeited. The country having pronounced against Mr. Beaven, Mr. Smith succeeded him in 1883 as premier, and very soon concluded the terms of the Settlement act. Under the Clements act there was no provision whatever made for settlement of the lands to be turned over to the syndicate—they would, had the company been able to handle the project, have immediately entered into possession of the lands without any obligation to settle them, and free of any right by the pre-emptor. The government of Mr. Smith, however, met this defect in the Clements act, and in the Settlement act introduced a provision that the lands to be granted to the company should be open for purchase by settlers for a period of four years at one dollar per acre. Hence it was that the farms in Alberni were located and a thriving settlement sprung up. The same could be said of other settlements, and during that period of four years somewhere about one thousand settlers were located. Hence it would be seen that when the opposition talk about the "great give away" of the lands upon the government party, they want to fasten upon the government party, they are simply condemning a policy originated by themselves, but originated by them without the redeeming feature in favor of settlers which Mr. Smith afterwards introduced. If any of the gentlemen present would like to have a copy of Mr. Beaven's land act to compare with the Settlement act, he would be happy to furnish copies of both acts to any one who would send him a post card. (Applause.)

MR. MCKENZIE'S WILD STATEMENTS.

Hon. Mr. Davis produced a copy of the Nanaimo Free Press of the 22nd instant, which contains what purports to be a report of a "large and influential" meeting held at Englishman's River on the Saturday previous, "there being a very large attendance of farmers from the surrounding district." Gentlemen, continued Mr. Davis, this "large and influential" meeting consisted of eleven persons. He (Mr. Davis) had recently himself held a meeting there at which a resolution was carried endorsing the candidature of Mr. Bryden, who was running in support of the government. Taking the Free Press report of the opposition meeting as a text for his remarks, he would commence with Mr. McKenzie's statement that "hundreds of thousands of dollars have been recklessly spent over and above the annual income," and Mr. Smith's assertion that "reckless extravagance runs through the veins of the whole commonwealth, and I find in going over the statistics from 1887 to 1894 that we in British Columbia have gone behind no less than one million three hundred and twenty-one thousand dollars. Had this large deficit been spent on reproductive works, such as roads, bridges, wharves, and the opening up of the country to bona fide settlers, so that the producer and consumer could be brought together, and the God given lands blossomed as a rose, yielding her fruits, good would have been accomplished." Hon. Mr. Davis proceeded to contrast these speeches with the facts of the case as shown in the budget speech of Hon. Mr. Turner, and the financial facts delivered at the opening of the last session, facts which there has been no attempt on the part of the opposition, or any one in the house, to controvert, although the speech has been published far and wide in the newspapers. "This is what Mr. Turner said," he will say, Mr. Speaker, review the general financial position of the province as shown by our public accounts, and in doing so I think it only right to consider the amount of money that has been borrowed

by the present and preceding governments, the purposes for which it was borrowed, and the way in which it has been expended. In 1887, during the government of the Hon. John Robson, it was deemed advisable to raise a loan for carrying on the public works of the province, and the sum of \$200,000 sterling was then borrowed, at the lowest rate of interest obtainable at the time, viz: 4 1/2 per cent. In 1891, with a view to still further prosecuting their most important works through the country, it was deemed advisable by this house to raise a further loan, and it was considered desirable that an effort should be made at the same time to consolidate our two previous loans, one of which bore interest at 6 per cent, and the other at 4 1/2 per cent, and, in endeavor, if possible, to arrange our liabilities in such a manner that the province would be able to borrow in future at a lower rate of interest. It is quite unnecessary for me to go over the effect of that decision, as it is well known that satisfactory arrangements were made with a view to consolidating the old debts and reducing our rate of interest to 3 per cent, and a new loan of some \$205,400 was raised at this rate of interest. The net proceeds of this loan were \$792,968. As I said before these loans were raised for the purpose of being expended on public works, and I now propose to lay before you a statement of the work that has been done since July 1, 1887, with this money.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE WITH THE MONEY. "There have been built 110 school houses at a cost of \$174,441; 10 jails and lock-ups, \$28,885; 12 court houses, \$190,692; 595,000 acres of land surveyed, \$83,424; 1,200 miles of road, 800 miles of trail, 600 bridges, and 5,000 miles of roads and bridges kept in repair, at a cost of \$1,631,683; making a total of \$2,009,225, or a total expenditure on public works during this period of over \$2,000,000." (Cheers)

ANOTHER LIE NAILED.

Continuing, and still quoting from the Free Press report, Hon. Mr. Davis read: "A pre-emptor at Three Forks, who had pre-empted some land, having still two months longer in which to fulfil the law's requirements, by permission, legislation was robbed of this land, which was turned over to the company, and will no doubt be the townsite at the terminus of the road. This is an outrage on the rights of the pre-emptor." This so-called outrage Hon. Mr. Davis pronounced an unmitigated "fabrication." He proceeded to prove it to be so, first by the pre-emptor having still two months in which to fulfil the law's obligation being robbed of this land—the statute was passed upon a largely signed petition, to enable him, the settler or rather the pre-emptor, for there were two of them, to get his title two months before the legislature otherwise they would have had to be rebuffed. Mr. Davis produced the statute and read from it to make this fact plain. He would be happy to supply a copy of that statute to anybody who may wish one. When men are found disseminating through the country such falsehoods as the statement quoted could be so simply shown to be untrue, they will know what to think of what they hear from them.

NAKUP AND SLOCAN RAILWAY.

Hon. Mr. Davis then explained the features of the Nakup and Slocan railway act, in connection with which the opposition have insinuated and imputed personal corruption against members of the ministry, though when challenged to a committee of investigation they refused to move for one, on the ground that a majority would consist of government supporters as if the majority, whatever might be the majority, could prevent the publication of the evidence, which would speak for itself, or the publication of the minority report of the remaining members of the committee. But the government determined that the country should know whether there was corruption or not, and insisted on a royal commission, and the opposition being thus brought to the point tried to crawl out of the charges they had made and to draw a red herring across the scent, and proposed that the commission should inquire into such matters as "whether the government had exceeded their powers," so shelving the charges of corruption which they had made. They counted without consideration of the intelligence of the people when they fancied that such shallow devices could succeed.

The Premier dwelt upon the financial condition of the province, comparing its liabilities with those of the cities, and showing that in the money markets of the world, British Columbia's credit is at the top. He exposed the hollowness of the opposition assertion that by converting the former 6 per cent and 4 1/2 per cent loans into 3 per cent the government had added \$605,000 to the debt. This attack, he said, like most others emanating from the same source, which are not based upon absolute facts, proceeds upon a statement of half the truth. Mr. Beaven in making the statement which he had done, persistently refused to take into account about \$400,000 of the sinking fund which would be released, and also the fact that \$25,000 per annum is saved in interest. These amounts compounded for fifty years would amount to more than \$3,000,000. (Cheers.)

OPPOSITION PLATFORMS.

Mr. Davis produced a copy of the so-called "reform" platform which had been circulated and adopted by members of the opposition—and which, according to the Free Press report, had been endorsed by the meeting of eleven persons at Englishman's River. Its second and third planks are as follows: "That the government negotiate with the Equivalents and Vancouver Island company for the purchase on fair and equitable terms of all lands at present owned by the said company in Vancouver Island, together with the mineral and other rights therein and that the said lands be then opened up for settlement."

"That the government negotiate for the purchase of the Equivalents and Vancouver Island, and in the event of a purchase being effected that the government do extend the said railroad as far as Comox district, and do assume control and operate the said railroad, or lease the same on reasonable terms for periods not exceeding fifty years."

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FOR SALE--A 1388-ACRE FARM

About 1000 Acres of which is Ploughable Prairie of First-class Quality.

120 Head (more or less) Cows, Steers, 2-year olds, etc., etc., (about 60 or 8 years.

7 Mares (in foal to a good stallion), 1 Horse, Pigs, Chickens, etc.

Ploughs, Harrows, Reaper, Fanning Mill, Wagon, Sleds and usual Farm Implements.

Double Harness, Bull Chains, Saddles (ladies and gent's), Bridles, etc.

Blacksmiths' Bellows, Anvil and Tools and Carpenters' Tools.

9-Room House (shingle roofed; Stable for 10 horses, with hay loft above; Stone Barn, Store Buildings, Dairy, Cow Sheds, etc., etc.

4 Miles (about) Standing Fences, in good order; Corralls, 10 miles barbed wire and staples; (about 2,600 Posts on the ground, ready for use, etc., etc.

Small Lot Household Furniture, Stove and Pipes, Crockery, etc., etc.

This Property is within easy distance of many of the most important Gold, Silver and Coal Mines in West Kootenay. The population of this district will increase this year by at least 10,000; the area of farm land is very limited, and from this it may be fairly asserted that beef and all classes of farm produce will find a ready and lucrative market. The soil is the best bottom of good farm land can be found in one block. A river runs through the property, and rainbow trout are plentiful and afford capital sport. Deer abound in considerable numbers. Bear, Wolf, Coyote and other large game are to be found in the hills. There are two creeks recorded and belonging to the estate, one flows all the year round. Limestone and brick clay are to be had in the valley.

The Cattle are well bred; a much larger herd could be farmed with the many thousands of acres, and is available to the few land owners in the valley. All buildings and fences about the farm are in a good order, and farming operations can be gone on with at once; about 180 acres of ploughing have been, so far, provided for this year's work.

The Climate is not severe, the land being about 1,100 feet above sea level; the station was for many years the winter quarters of the H. B. Co.'s pack trains. There is a weekly express in and out. Goods and supplies at wholesale can be procured on order and delivered in 48 hours.

The Title is by grant from the Crown, and is free of all encumbrances. Immediate possession can be given.

Important Railway works are now in progress within moderate distance, and two railway lines have been run to pass close to or through the estate, which can be reached in the spring in three days' journey from Victoria.

The South West Kootenay District, British Columbia, from the actual ore products of the mines this winter, is destined in the next year or two to become one of the richest and most important mineral centres in the world. Statistics show, that although the district is in its primary stage, the mines have developed ore veins rich enough to warrant the investment of over million dollars. When these mines come to be worked systematically, there will be an

Influx of Population, which will require beef and farm produce in large quantities. The limited quantity of really good farm land in the district to supply these requirements makes this

A BONANZA!

To any person or corporation having the capital and knowledge necessary to develop and work this estate. A store, hotel and blacksmith shop could be run in connection with the farm.

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Loggers' Supplies.

Double and Single Bitted Axes, Cross Cut and Felling Saws, Cant Hooks, Peavies, Ox Bows, Good Sticks, Log Rules, Boot Caulks, Chains, etc.

Mechanics' Tools.

All kinds of Blacksmiths' and Carpenters'.

Wagons.

Team, Farm and Spring Wagons.

Carts.

Dump, Road and Speeding Carts.

Carriages.

Buggies, Surreys, Gladstones, Kennedys and Phaetons.

Farm Machinery and Implements.

Binders, Mowers, Rakes, Plows, Harrows, Seed Drills, Cultivators, Forks, Spades, Hoes, etc., etc.

Pumps.

In great variety, including SPRAYING OUTFITS FOR ORCHARDS.

Pipe.

Water and Gas (galvanized and black), Pipe Fittings and Brass Goods.

Iron and Steel.

Plates, Bars and Hoops.

ALL AT PRICES TO SUIT THE TIMES.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE OR SEE OUR GOODS BEFORE PURCHASING.

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THIRTY-SIX

INDUSTRIAL A

The Various Divisions in Straits-Difficulties of to Washington

Coxey's Trial Begun—"On ing to Provide and So Must Be Done."

TACOMA, May 4.—The pro local Coxeyites was to get on parties along the Northern Pa but as they climbed on to larg train between Meeker junction

was sidetracked, the engine and turning. Marsh was at on protest the company's property McGraw being asked what at posed to take, said the No being in the hands of the l court, he should take no ac have been formulated to pu Coxeyites in this state, at work tion ditches in Eastern Wash par day, each man to be suppli necessities of life and to be p apoe due in cash when the l frigation system are placed, coomplaver three irrigating sy prising 135 miles of ditches a 50,000 to 100,000 acres of irri. A part of the scheme is to tracts of the land at a reduced men employed in constructing and to encourage the building houses and tilling the land.

SEATTLE, May 4.—General of the local army, has returned ma, stating that the men having contented he had resigned the There are now 600 men at Puy 1,000 who went there.

FOYALLER, May 4.—Exception times have been experienced he "erd" J. Sheppard was called up his command, his financial aid not being considered satisfactory subsequently disbanding, to re Spokane, the members individual their way to Washington as best An endeavor was, however, making a Great Northern train.

SACRAMENTO, May 4.—The ci deserters from the Industrial ar looks as if the policy of leaving alone will result in their bre Twenty men from one camp hav work for the street railway com \$1.75 per day. The men were sleeping in box cars were driven city.

DES MOINES, May 4.—Kelley's desperate straits. Starvation men in the face, and the demon laboring people as a last re not a success. General J. G. Governor Jackson that his delega to know if there was any an the executive to secure a train, anxious to prevent the disbandm Moines of the suffering Indus

GREENA, Neb., May 4.—Capt Duff's Commonwealthers from Liv rived here yesterday on their wa Kelley's army at Des Moines. Capt. Duff was very cool. Capt. Duff a halt for refreshments, after w marched to Portal, reaching Omaha to-day.

MURRAY, Utah, May 4.—Carter band of unemployed have move Kootenay have been made with roads to move them east, but

CHITTLE CREEK, Col., May Coxeyites, numbering 159 men, u mand of J. S. Sanders, started i ington City yesterday afternoon marched seven miles and went i where they were joined by fifty E Every man in the army had a b blankets.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 4.—Gene with his army hopes to move Washington to-morrow.

HARBORSBURG, Ky., May 4.— Springs, a Mexican war veteran, Kootenay Commonwealthers, left here last for Washington in a balloon. Spri he will contribute \$1,000 to Cox arrival in Washington.

NEW YORK, May 4.—Fitzger Swift, leader of the New Engi Commonwealthers, are to hold a mass m night. Fitzgérald says they will city for Newark to-morrow.

WASHINGTON CITY, May 4.—Ge was conspicuous by his absence camp yesterday. He remained at of the army's camping ground to healthy places. He hoped to secure City race track for a camping grou have 525 men in our camp to-da Marshall Brown. "We have we all the bad elements."