

AN INVITATION.

If there are any Conservatives in this city who have been so grievously misled by the palpable brouhaha and bluster of Premier McBride or the feigned confidence of his organ as to believe that the Liberal party is not entering upon the campaign united, enthusiastic and assured of victory, we invite them to the meeting in the theatre this evening. Mr. J. A. Macdonald, the leader of the Liberal party, and Mr. W. W. B. McInnes, his first lieutenant, will deliver addresses. Mr. Macdonald is not as well known to Victorians as he will be a year from now—that is to say, after he has resided "in our midst" for a time as Premier of the province. He has not had many opportunities of addressing Victoria audiences, and our people are not very familiar with his style as a platform speaker. Those who have had the privilege of hearing Mr. Macdonald on the floor of the legislature will not dispute the statement that as a debater he ranks as the peer of any public man who has ever occupied a seat in the House. It is true the leader of the opposition is "not an orator as McBride is"—he does not rant and ramp and roar and smite his desk in the "mock heroics of declamation." In style he is calm, cool, logical, precise and convincing. What he says is not forgotten immediately the sound of the words dies away. It stays with the auditor and by the very force of its reasoning convinces him of the sincerity of the speaker and the soundness of the cause he advocates. Mr. Macdonald wields a very keen weapon, and to those who revel in the merciless dissection of an opponent and a complete exposure of his case he furnishes a feast of the highest political satisfaction.

Mr. McInnes is of a different type altogether. That is one reason why he and his distinguished leader will harmonize so well. They are perfectly complimentary of each other. It is not necessary to tell Victorians anything about W. W. B. McInnes as a public speaker. They know him. They understand that when he gets upon his feet there will not be a dull moment until he sits down again. His enthusiasm, his optimism, his force and his genial bonhomie are irresistible. He says he is in politics to-day because he would rather be a member of the government of British Columbia than governor of the Yukon. We can promise any Conservatives who attend the meeting this evening that they will come away convinced by Mr. McInnes that he is in earnest when he makes this statement—that facts will be placed before them which will demonstrate that the leader of the opposition and his second in command have good reasons for the faith they express in regard to the outcome on the 2nd ult. It will do Conservatives good to accustom themselves to the style of oratory that is going to prevail in British Columbia from this time forward. It will also soften the shock of the impending change for them to know that the leaders of the new government are men whom we need not be ashamed to send to Ottawa or anywhere else to conduct our business.

INCREDIBLE.

The Vancouver Guardian tells an extraordinary story, a tale that is almost incredible as revealing the effects upon a friid disposition and normally cold blood of the political bacillus. Our Vancouver contemporary says the germ has so affected the Conservative candidate for Richmond, the Hon. F. Carter-Cotton, President of the Council without portfolio in the McBride government, that he is actually unbending his natural austerity to the extent of kissing babies whose fathers are suspected to have succeeded in getting their names listed on the provincial voters' lists. We give this story for what it is worth, knowing that all of our readers who have the pleasure of the acquaintance of Mr. Cotton will join in our expressions of incredulity. At the same time it is well to remember in connection with the matter that Mr. F. Carter-Cotton is going to insist upon becoming a member of the McBride government with portfolio after election, a position which carries with it not only a salary (which the President of the Council values not at all) and residence in Victoria (which is something worth aspiring to, and which as a matter of fact all men who have served a term in the Legislature do hunger and thirst after). When we take these facts into consideration, and couple them with the further fact that Mr. F. Carter-Cotton is going to be opposed in Richmond not only by a strong Liberal, but by a Conservative, reputed to be the nominee of the disaffected wing of the Conservative party in Vancouver, it will be admitted that there is reason to credit the rather remarkable story of his unbending.

EXPLODED GAS BAGS.

The organ of the government tells us that it refuses to discuss the "slanders" that have been circulated by the opposition because the public pays no attention to such methods of conducting a campaign. The Kalen Island scandal was fully ventilated on the floor of the Legislature, and all the facts connected with it explained and the allegations exploded "like any other gas bags." We are told. Well, we may be

permitted to express our doubts about that. There are certain facts relating to the Kalen Island deal that cannot be blown into space with a "poof" of either an editorial or ministerial breath. For example, it has not yet been explained why the Andersons or the Larsons, who may be very respectable and influential persons in the particular circles they adorn for aught we know to the contrary, but who certainly never were important factors in the public life of British Columbia until the government of Premier McBride took them up—we say it has never been satisfactorily explained why the Andersons and the Larsons were commissioned by the Lands and Works Department to negotiate the transfer of Kalen Island to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company. Perhaps the organ will endeavor to enlighten us upon this very important point. If the matter can be satisfactorily explained, its elucidation may play an important part in the election. In the absence of an explanation we fear that the worst possible construction may be put upon the deal by the public. Mr. Larsen may be an exploded gas bag. We have not heard a word from him since the date when he announced in answer to a summons to appear before the investigation committee of the Legislature that he was very ill with cirrhosis of the liver, or some kindred complaint, and could not possibly come. But the other parties to the transaction are still with us and appear to be enjoying the best of health and the fruits of that very profitable deal. We fear they would indignantly resent the insinuation that they are "exploded gas bags." Then there is Mr. Green, the late Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, who was very prominent in connection with that rather unsavory affair, but who in his resignation has transferred all the responsibility for the deal to the shoulders of the remaining members of the government—may be an exploded politician, but, although we have said some things about him as a public man that are the reverse of complimentary, we should not like to describe him as an "exploded gas bag." Mr. Green is a very substantial entity. He cannot be blown into oblivion with a "poof" either. Why was he compelled to resign his position, he the trusted and beloved companion of the Premier, why was he thrust out into outer political darkness if the scandals connected with his department—the Kalen Island deal and the Kitimat deal, if anything more unsavory in its details than the Kalen Island deal—if all the scandals with which the government's name has been associated were fully discussed and ventilated on the floor of the House and the participants therein exonerated from all suggestions of wrong-doing?

The Times is in receipt of reliable information from all parts of the province in regard to the temper of the public and the attitude of the people in regard to the record of the government. We have been informed on the best of authority that the electorate is far from being satisfied with the verdict of the Socialist-Conservative majority of the government in the Legislature on the course of the administration—that the people are thoroughly aroused, and that when the result of the polling on the 2nd day of February is announced it will be found to be a complete endorsement of the course of the Liberal party in the Legislature and an emphatic defeat of the McBride administration.

ALL CLEARED UP.

We are gratified beyond measure to observe that Mr. C. J. V. Spratt, in response to our not altogether unnatural inquiry under the circumstances, has lifted the veil with respect to his political position. He says: "Having been a Liberal of no importance for some years, I am surprised that my political position should have aroused such an elaborate expression of the curiosity of the editor of the Times, and however uncertain I may feel of my position at present, I feel no uncertainty whatever myself of remaining one of the unimportant Liberals." We could hardly ask for anything more explicit than this. It is evidently the intention of Mr. Spratt to support the candidates of the Liberal party at the coming election. No Liberal who intends to do that can be counted as 'unimportant,' seeing that he intends taking part in the good work of assisting in the destruction of the government which has done more than any other government. British Columbia has ever had to step the name of the province in disgrace. Still, we think if Mr. Spratt will consider all the circumstances of his case, he will agree with us that we were warranted in endeavoring to persuade him to state exactly where he stood. On the eve of a general election he resigned the position he held some time as president of the Young Men's Liberal Club. In an interview with a reporter of the Colonist, the organ of the McBride government, Mr. Spratt stated that he had withdrawn from politics, that he had become an independent in his political views, and that he would support those whom he deemed the most in earnest in their desire to benefit the country at large; and that finally he thought Premier McBride "had adopted the only course open to him in connection with the inter-provincial conference" at Ottawa. On the strength of Mr. Spratt's actions and statements the Colonist assumed that it had gained a recruit of considerable importance to the cause

of degenerate Toryism as exemplified in the career of the McBride government. Our contemporary made the most of the statements and the acts of the late president of the Young Men's Liberal Club. Now we know there was absolutely no warrant for its deductions. Mr. Spratt, while not as important a Liberal as he was when he presided over the Young Men's Liberal Club, is still a supporter and an advocate of the true political faith. We are pleased to know this, not only because we now know where to place him, but because his statement of faith fully substantiates what we held in the first instance with reference to the alleged Liberal defection; that it was confined to two individuals whose reasons for desertion to the enemy would not bear investigation.

POLITICAL CONVERSIONS.

The supporters of the McBride government are at present engaged in the pleasant but unprofitable task of whistling loudly to keep their courage up. They are making much, as they are justified from a party point of view in doing, of alleged defections from the Liberal ranks. We suppose it would be useless for us to remind them that the desertions upon which they are founding their forlorn hopes are not very serious. They are confined strictly, as anyone can see for himself, to certain political soldiers of fortune whose weapons the Liberal party refused to grind and who evidently think they will fare better in their own peculiar line by allying themselves with the McBride party. We have no doubt whatever that the malcontents have estimated the situation with absolute accuracy. Doubtless the success which has attended the operations of the persons who manipulated the Kalen Island and the Kitimat deals through the Lands and Works Department has filled them with envy and they are determined that any such opportunities that may arise in the future shall not be permitted to pass unimproved. We believe we can assert with the utmost confidence that their determination to join forces on the eve of battle with the party whose guiding principle is summed up in the word "spoils" will not have a serious effect upon the prospects of the Liberal party. On the contrary it should and will have the effect of enlisting under the banner of reform many voters who believe any political party asking to be entrusted with the government of a province should have somewhat higher aims than the appeasement of the appetites of individuals whose political "principles" are frankly selfish and sordid.

But while we concede to the organ of the government the privilege of making the most of the notable conversions to its peculiar political faith, we submit that it is yet too early in the game to resort to misrepresentation. There is yet ample opportunity for revision and correction of any misstatements that may be published purporting to emanate from any alleged pervers. Mr. Spratt has repudiated the interview which appeared in the Colonist regarding his attitude towards the Liberal party. Friday's Colonist contained the following letter from Mr. J. Stuart Yates:

Victoria, B. C., January 3rd, 1907.
To the Editor:—I notice in to-day's issue of your paper what purports to be an interview with me by one of your reporters. I desire you to correct the impression which one might gain from a perusal of that report on one or two points, viz., that I had severed my connection with the Liberal party. What I did state to your reporter was that I had resigned as one of the executive of the Young Liberal Club. Further, beyond stating that the proposition to submit each province's claim for "better terms" to arbitration by the party was a fair one, I don't think I can be fairly credited with having "sympathy" with Mr. McBride's stand on that matter. When asked if I did not approve of the position he took on the point, I replied that without knowing all the circumstances of the case it was impossible for me to approve or condemn his action. But I added that the whole affair looked to me as if the Times was right when it stated that the point had been raised at this time for political purposes and in a party "cry" for this election, and in my opinion the question of "better terms" was one that should only be brought up at a Dominion election. I also stated that in so far as I had had anything to do as an alderman on behalf of the city of Victoria, with the present government I had found them on all occasions prompt, business like and fair in their dealings.

The omission of part of a person's statement may be all right as a matter of "politics" (and if so, so much the worse for "politics"), but it certainly is not "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

J. STUART YATES.

THE SITUATION.

Of course it is an unheard-of thing for the opposition to desire a change of government. It is presumptuous when we consider the record Premier McBride's administration has made in the short time it has been in office to ask the people of British Columbia to consider the facts and be wise while there is yet time to place the remainder of the valuable assets of British Columbia beyond the grasp of such evildoers and individuals and corporations as have profited through the Kalen Island and Kitimat and other indefensible deals.

It is claimed the Liberal party has no possible chance of succeeding in the coming contest. There is no substan-

tial foundation for such assertions, of course; but they serve a certain purpose. They appeal to the element which desires above everything else to be on the winning side. They constitute what little particle of strength the government possesses. But, as a matter of fact, the opposition is in a much better position to achieve success than it was at the last election, when it actually carried a majority of the seats and would have been in a position to profit by the victory it gained but for the scandalous manner in which the machinery in control of the government was worked. The Liberal party, the leader of the Socialist party and the leader of the Liberal party have repeatedly eulogized each other, the latter openly acknowledging that he opposed Liberalism because it stood for such progressive measures as would bring to naught the revolutionary propaganda of Socialism. In the face of facts with which all British Columbians are familiar, how can it be maintained that Liberalism is divided and Conservatism united? The Liberals enter into the contest as a unit. Whatever strength Socialism develops it will draw from the party with which it has been allied. It is fighting a common battle with Conservatism. Is it not drawing its financial sustenance from a common campaign fund? The public cannot be deceived by puerile attempts to falsify the records. The Liberal party will have strong candidates in every constituency. It will be supported by all the elements which stand for clean administration and the permanence of tried and tested political institutions. In the city of Vancouver such stalwart Conservatives as Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Mr. George Gowan, and many others, have revolted in disgust, principally because of the alliance of McBride Conservatives with the Socialist party. They have placed an independent Conservative candidate in the field against Hon. F. Carter-Cotton, the President of the Council. The labor party will support the candidates of the Liberal party in that city. It is when we compare the conditions of to-day with the conditions in 1903, when the McBride government was not only morally, but actually, defeated, that an idea of the desperate straits to which the government has been reduced can be intelligently comprehended. The electors of Victoria should not permit themselves to be deceived into the belief

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LADIES' DRESSING JACKETS in French and German Flannel and Cashmere; colors navy and light blue, pink, white, mauve and red; regular values, 24 only at, each, \$2.50; 51 only at, each, \$3.00; special sale price to-morrow, **\$1.90** each jacket.

DESCRIPTION:—

NAVY BLUE FRENCH FLANNEL DRESSING JACKET, loose back, deep collar with frill edged with white embroidery.
LADIES' GERMAN FLANNEL DRESSING JACKET, pale blue with white stripes, collar and cuffs finished with fancy rouching.
GERMAN FLANNEL DRESSING JACKET, blue and white, deep sailor collar with frill finished with two rows of blue satin ribbon.
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CANDIDATES NOMINATED

Constituency.	Liberal.	Conservative.	Independent.
Alberni.....	H. Brewster.....	W. Manson.....	James Cartwright (S.)
Allyn.....	Dr. Young.....	Dr. Young.....	
Cowichan.....	J. N. Evans.....	W. H. Hayward.....	
Comox.....	J. E. Bennett.....	Robert Grant.....	C. A. McKinnon.
Crabbrook.....	J. A. Harvey.....	J. A. Harvey.....	Thos. E. Kelley (Soc.)
Chilliwack.....	S. A. Galloway.....	Frank J. Mackenzie.	
Delta.....	John Oliver.....	Hon. R. McBride.....	John McInnes (Soc.)
Dowdney.....	R. Jardine.....	C. E. Tooley.....	
Esquimalt.....	G. R. Nisbet.....	E. Miller.....	
Grand Forks.....	G. R. Nisbet.....	G. H. Parsons.....	
Greenwood.....	G. R. Nisbet.....	Hon. F. J. Fulton.....	
Golden.....	J. W. Pearson.....		
Kamloops.....	J. D. Swanson.....		
Kaslo.....	John Keen.....		
Nanaimo.....			
Newcastle.....	F. W. Howay.....	Thos. Gifford.....	J. Hawthornthwaite (
New Westminster.....	Dr. G. A. B. Hall.....	John A. Kirkpatrick.....	H. Shepherd (Ind. Lab.
Okanagan.....	Dr. K. C. McDonald.....	Price Elliott.....	Frank Phillips (Soc.)
Revelstoke.....	R. Cayley.....	T. Taylor.....	
Richmond.....	J. W. Wear.....	Robert McBride (Ind.)	S. Livingstone (S. Co.
Roseland.....	J. A. McDonald.....		
Saanich.....	S. W. Curtis.....	D. M. Eberhart.....	
Similkameen.....	E. W. Smith.....	William Hunter.....	F. Winkler (Soc.)
Slocan.....	A. B. Dockstead.....	Hon. R. G. Fallowell.....	E. T. Kingsley (S.)
Vancouver.....	W. W. B. McInnes.....	A. H. B. Magowan.....	R. R. Robbins (S.)
	R. P. McLennan.....	J. F. Gaden.....	R. P. Pettipiece (S.)
	J. W. DeB. Farris.....	Dr. McGuire.....	J. H. McVerry (S.)
	Stuart Henderson.....	Dr. McGuire.....	J. E. Duberley (S.)
		C. A. Semlin.....	J. Johnson (Labor).

that the government has any chance of success and that therefore in their own interests it is well for them to have even one representative on the winning side. That is the game the supporters of Premier McBride are transparently playing.

It is apparent from a survey of the field that the chances of the Liberal party are much brighter than they were in 1903, when they gained a great victory, of which they were deprived through the abuse of the powers of the government, and with consequences to the province illustrated in the Kalen Island land deal, the Kitimat land steal, the Columbia & Western atrocity, and other reprehensible transactions which will be gone into more fully during the course of the campaign.

THE MODERN PRODIGAL.

Did you ever hear the story That the colored preacher spun To elucidate the parable Known as the Prodigal Son? How he left his father's mansion For the country far away, With his retinue of servants And his trunk packed for to stay. How he spent his wealth like water, Until famine lean and gaunt, Like a wolf gnawed at his vitals. "He began to be in want," How he pawned his ring and turban, His sandals went by stealth, His undershirt and pantaloons,

"He then came to himself." Now history repeats itself, And ever and anon, In this province, we're reminded That we have a Prodigal Son. For "Dewdney Dick" administrators A province rich and grand, With forests, plains and minerals, And wealth on every hand, But it's bought and sold like shortcake, Without a future care, And land is given outright To the wealthy C. P. R. And in the Kalen Island deal He tipped a motley crew, For, like the Prodigal of old, He deals with women, too. This recklessness at length will tell, And cramp his bank account, 'E'en in the present fiscal year "He began to be in want," A bright idea seized his brain (No matter if unfair), "I'll arise and go to Ottawa For my elder brother's share," Not in shame and rage he came, For he was after profit, Nor did he come from feeding swine, He stood for them himself. Now Dewdney Dick's home to himself, And it makes the people laugh. For the "old man" down at Ottawa Won't kill the fattest calf. DEWDNEY FARMER.

On the 22nd inst., the Polmarier Sisters, a company of clever musicians under the management of H. D. Polmarier, will give an entertainment in the Institute hall under the auspices of the Victoria Football Club. The machinery of a 10,000-ton battleship weighs 1,400 tons.

Local News

—The Empress of Japan is expected to reach Victoria on the 6th inst.

—Thomas A. Brydon, receiver of the 1906 municipal elections.

—Miss Nellie Olson, of this city, is taking a course at a Berlin conservatory of music.

—Margaret Keopock, daughter of N. Keopock, and law of B. J. Perry, died on at St. Joseph's hospital.

—On Tuesday, January 8th, Miss McGregor, of Ivyholme at home to their friends both noon and evening.

—George H. Gobel, a native of the United States, is giving a series of lectures in the A. O. U. W. evening at 8 o'clock.

—New Westminster citizens making arrangements for a party to be given in honor of the Liberator and Mrs. Dunsmuir, which that city shortly.

—Harry M. Graham, who so ago was a member of the city has declared his intention of a candidate in the next municipal elections.

—Friday evening at the A. O. hall George H. Gobel, social chairman of the United States, is giving a series of lectures in the A. O. U. W. evening at 8 o'clock.

—The next regular meeting of the Poultry Association will be the parlor of the Queen's hotel, the 8th inst. A full attendance is requested in order to complete the arrangements for the coming show.

—The committee in charge of dance arrangements for the night, Fifth Regiment, will meet at 8 o'clock to-night. Any members wishing tickets to obtain the night.

—The Full court will open to-day for the hearing of appeals the courts below. It is anticipated the judgment in the city's case in the Goldstream case may be delivered at this sitting.

—This evening at the Salons the annual Christmas tree will be given to children, and a song, "The Choicest Gift," will be given by the choir and children bined.

—The Victoria Building Society hold a general meeting in the city office, 157 Douglas street, Tuesday evening, January 8th, 8 o'clock. The chief business, election of an auditor to fill the of J. E. Church, deceased.

—The committee in charge of arrangements for the forthcoming annual smoker will hold a meeting at the drill hall at 8 o'clock to-day to prepare for the event which will take place in the A. O. U. W. hall 15th inst.

—Miss Nellie Olson, a former pupil of Miss F. Smith, and on her programme at her residence, is now taking a two-year course in piano under a leading German teacher at the Stern's conservatory, Berlin.

—As the Tourist Association is up its business for last year, it is glad to receive any outstanding subscriptions. The annual general of the association will be held end of this month, on a date decided upon.

—Word has been received by Carter, of this city, informing the death of his brother, Arthur Carter, in Baltimore. The made his home in the east after leaving Victoria in 1895, resided there since. He leaves and four children.

—Secretary Elworthy, of the trade union, is holding a meeting of his branch, the Stanley H. Frame, Prince Rupert for calendars from local showing the different branches in this city. Mr. Frame expressed opinion that Prince Rupert is advertising point.

—On Thursday evening the meeting of the sergeants' mess, Every member is requested to be on hand. The meeting will be held in the city hall, and the principal item on the agenda will be the annual dinner of the mess.

—The committee of the Yorks city has decided, after some discussion, to hold a dance and social to the successful event will held last year. The date and place, January 25th and Victoria hall, are now being decided. All Yorkshire people are cordially invited.

—Oscar Lucas, who has resided in this city, is now in the position as city editor of the "Enterprising" in this city, is sent with an umbrella by the newspaper. The presentation made by Robert Dunn, the editor, a glowing tribute to Mr. Lucas and on behalf of his associates him success in his future career.

—Preparations are being made for coming elections, both municipal and provincial, by the local branch of the Canadian Labor party. The committee is handling the work campaigns were selected on Tuesday evening at a meeting held in hall, and another meeting in building will be held on evening next.

—General William Booth, of the Salvation Army, will leave England, about the middle of on a trip across the America to the Orient. He will reach Victoria April and visit Seattle, but it is not whether he will take passage east from this city or the Se-