MIER CONFIDENT OF PARTY'S SUCCESS Ing to our love of ease? But was not the way laid out by Jesus, who trod it first and left His footprints to guide us if we would follow? Have we again, like Mary Magdalen, sought Him in sorrow, and met Him with joy upon the way, rejoicing because we recognized His voice, when He called us as our Good Shepherd, for, "when He putteth forth His own sheep He goeth before them and they follow for they know His voice." But how apt we are to slip by the wayside, and in falling we recognize our own weakness. And then the strong arm is held out again to support and draw us close, so that we may follow again in the footprints, trusting in the strong arm is held out again to support and draw us close, so that we may follow again in the footprints, trusting in the strong embrace, and recognizing our own weakness. May we all again begin our new year. PREMIER CONFIDENT

Hon. Richard McBride Gives Reasons for Belief That Country Will Overwhelmingly Endorse His Administration --- W. W. B. McInnes Joins Liberal Forces.

The political situation is the all-absorbing topic of conversation. The announcement of the dissolution of British Columbia's tenth parliament has converted all the Liberal-Conservative and Liberal camps of the various constituencies into hives of feverish activity. Upon the street corners of Victoria yesterday afternoon were gathered little groups of local politicians, all discussing the forthcoming campaign and making dogmatic predictions as to the outcome.

Niven, W. G. Cameron, and Richard Hall—will be again advanced. This, however, its considered doubtful, because for the fact that others are said to be fockeying for nomination. It has been rumored that Dr. Ernest Hall would accept the nomination of the local branch of the Canadian Labor party. When questioned Wednesday evening, he said that he had not yet reached a decision.

Record of Legislatures

The legislature assembly just dis-

Premier McBride is among the most Premier McBride is among the most composed of those who will rally to his banner or those who will join the ranks of J. A. Macdonald, K. C., leader of the opposition, in the contest which will be fought throughout the month of Janaary. When interviewed Wadnesday the Premier expressed absolute confidence in the success of his party. Looking at the situation from an unbiased point of view, he did not think that there could be any doubt but that the Liberal-Conservatives would receive a good may servatives would receive a good majority. Their chances, at least, were one hundred per cent better than previous to the last general election. Then they had been returned. The inference was not a difficult one to understand. was not a difficult one to understand. But, of course, there was nothing more uncertain than a political contest, and, though the government might be pretty certain of receiving the endorsation of the people, no stone would be left unturned to place the situation as clearly as possible before the minds of the electors before polling day.

Outlook is Splendid

Referring to the prevailing conditions, the Premier stated that they could not be better. In the somewhat extensive traveling he had done recently within the confines of British Columbia, he had everywhere met with evidences of prosperity. Those residing in the towns, in the agricultural districts and in the mining camps, seemed to be doing well and to be contented. They were satisfied with the way the interests of the country were being attended to. That was the gratifying impression he had received, and it was one of the reasons why he was confident of the outcome of the campaign.

Outlook Is Splendid

Campaign.
'When will the fight start?" asked "When will the fight start?" asked the reporter. "Immediately," promptly seplied the Premier. He added that it was hardly likely that the fight would begin in earnest until the beginning of next month. He would leave, however, for his riding on Friday, and had arranged to deliver a couple of addresses there before commencing a tour of several of the largest and most populous districts of the province. Up to the present he had not drafted a definite it-inerary of the ronte which will be followed, but he stated that the principal centres of the Kootenay and Okanagan sections would be visited by him in the course of the contest. It also was his intention to spend a short time on Vancouver Island. In all probability he would speak in Victoria and adjacent districts. In d word, the Premier intended waging an aggressive fight, covering as much ground as possible in the short space of time at his disposal.

Draws a Comparison

Columbia and will strictly adhere to this platform, and will fight loyally for the adoption of the measures there in contained and generally for the cause of labor.

(c) That if I am selected as the labor candidate for this contest, I will not selected by the preliminary ballot. I will retire from the contest and throw the whole weight of my support in favor of the candidate selected.

(d) That if elected as a member I will not accept any office of emolument, either ministerial or otherwise, unless a majority of the members of the government are pledged representatives of the workers.

(e) That if the fate of the government are pledged representatives of the workers.

(e) That if the fate of the government are pledged representatives of the workers.

(e) That if the fate of the members of the government are pledged representatives of the workers.

Draws a Comparison Continuing, Premier McBride drew a comparison between the last general election and the conditions which prevail and might be expected to influence the present election. On the former occasion, he remarked, it was anyone's fight, his party being returned by a small majority. At present the organization of both sides, as far as could be ascertained, was not particularly strong. zation of both sides, as far as could be ascertained, was not particularly strong. If anything, the Liberals were in better shape than the Liberal-Conservatives. Still the same had been the case before, and the result was now a matter of history. The chances of the government being returned were improved one hundred per cent, as he had stated, so that he would enter upon the campaign, and he was sure all his adherents would do the same, enthused with a spirit of optimism.

was determined to make it an issue. For weeks and weeks they had harped upon the subject. Although he was not favorable to making it an issue in the fight, there was no doubt that the electors were interested in hearing of what was being done to obtain British Columbia's measure of justice from the Dominion treasury. The attacks which were being made upon him because of the attitude which he assumed while attending the conference of provincial premiers at Ottawa, also would make it necessary for him to give the public a liscussed to some extent, Concluding, the Premier said that the

prospects were that the fight would be keenly contested on both sides.

Hon. W. B. McInnes in Arena It was announced by the Times Wed-uesday, the information being obtained

from sources which, it is claimed, are authoritative, that Hon, W. W. B. Mc Innes would resign his position as commissioner of the Yukon, in order to join the British Columbia Liberals in the ensuing contest. His name is mentioned as a possible successor to J. A. Macdonald, K. C., as leader of the party.

lumbia.

(b) That I have freely and willingly accepted the recognized platform of the Canadian Labor Party of British Columbia and will strictly adhere to this platform, and will fight loyally for the adoption of the measures therein contained and generally for the cause of labor.

lar legislature.

(f) That if, after election as a Labor member, I find that I cannot keep my pledges to the Canadian Labor Party of British Columbia, I will tender my resignation as a member of the legis-ative or municipal body, and also as a member of the party.

(Signed) Candidate

4 Branch No... At a recent joint meeting of the executives of the Labor Party and the Economic Club it was decided that the organizations would work in co-operation with each other, conducting joint meetings and sharing expenses.

terstate commerce commissioner, Mr. Lafe, who has had direct charge of an possible successor to 1. A. Macdonald K. Commissioner of the petrophysical content of the principles of Socialism. This year and the form of the Canadina Labor party and the principles of Socialism. This year and the principles o Lane, who has had direct charge of

siderable numerical strength. Both, it is reported, will present candidates.

Up to the present neither the Liberal-Conservative or Liberal associations of Victoria have held their nominating conventions. A number of names are mentioned in connection with the latter. It is affirmed that the four late members—R. L. Drury, J. D. Mc-

Niven, W. G. Cameron, and Richard Hall—will be again advanced. This, however, is considered doubtful, because of the fact that others are said to be jockeying for nomination. It has been rumored that Dr. Ernest Hall would accept the nomination of the local branch of the Canadian Labor party. When questioned Wednesday evening, he said that he had not yet reached a decision.

Record of Legislatures

The legislative assembly just dissolved in 1900; its successor existed only until 1903; and now the term of another legislative body has been cut short. Previous to the last three houses, provincial legislatures existed for the full four-year terms, and for the twelve years from 1836 to 1838 there were only three houses, each occupying its full legal term.

Labor Party's Convention

Tonight the local Labor party will meet in Labor Hall for the purpose of nominating candidates for the coming election. The selection can only be made from bons fide members of the party who will subscribe to the pledge as given in the constitution. They must also withdraw from any other political organization. It is not, yet to fall, but several names are mentioned in this connection, shong them being P. R. Smith, printer: Norman the president of the party; Johnson of the Trades and Labor Council, and Dr. Ernest Hall.

The following is the pledge exacted from each candidate for electoral honor:

(a) That I am a member of the Canadian Labor Party of British Columbia.

(b) That I have freely and willingly accepted the recognized platform of the Canadian Labor Party of British Columbia.

(c) That I have freely and willingly accepted the recognized platform of the Canadian Labor Party of British Columbia.

It is thought that W. H. Marcon, who ran as an independent against Hon. William Templeman at the bye-election for the Dominion House of Commons, will be a candidate at the approaching provincial election and will receive the support of the Labor and Socialist parties. He will, however, come out as an independent, with Royal Garrison Artillery serving under the commons of the permanent forces of Canada, and commanders of coast defences have been instructed to submit the names of any volunteers from the Royal Garrison Artillery serving under the common of the permanent of the permanent of the permanent of the common artillery serving under the names of any volunteers from the common of the permanent of the Canadian government, the army of the Canadian government to the army of the Canadian government to the army of the Canadian government to the army o will receive the support of the Laber and Socialist parties. He will, however, come out as an independent, will receive to a superior of the command. The conditions of service, pay and so forth are as follows: Sultable men to be enlisted as privates, to serve in the Royal Canson Artillery serving under their command. The conditions of service, pay and so forth are as follows: Sultable men to be enlisted as privates, to serve in the Royal Canson their corps in which there are vacanted and the corps in the corps in the corps in the soldiers. Practically all Swiss serve from the age of 20 to 50 in the militia and reserves. The powers to re-engage up to 21 years for pension. Men must be medically fit, unmarried and of at least fair character. They should be trained soldiers, between 19 and 25 years of age, with not more than six years' previous service. Fay on enlistment, 50 cents a day; after six years' service, 60 cents a day; after six years' service, 60 cents a day; after three years service, 60 cents aday; after six years' service, 60 course, are carefully trained in good schools for a period of years. The interestice would be insufficer, or course, are carefully trained in good schools for a period of years. This short service would be insufficer, or course, are carefully trained in good schools for a period of years. This short service would be insufficer, or course, are carefully all swiss citizens. Target shooting is the national sport, and the country of the canadian forces will date from the canadian forces will date from the canadian forces will date from the canadian pay and allow-to and the c

TO THE

AND DISTRICT

ous Vintners, Distillers, Brewers and Cigar Manufacturers whom we have the honor to represent, and from ourselves, we have very great pleasure in thanking the licensed victualers and grocers for their continued and extended patronage during the year, and to wish

ONE AND ALL

Very Merry Xmas

and Cigar Merchants. Victoria and Vancouver.

ably be required to embark about January 1 next."

COL. FISET'S SUCCESSOR. Ottawa, Dec. 26,-(Special)-An order in council has been passed appointing Surgeon Lieut.-Col. A. Carleton Jones of Halifax to be director of medi-

And All Through the House no One Was Stirring—May a House and the analysis of the State of the Control of the C

ON ENGLISH COAST

sorts are offered by the national government.
This little Switzerland, with a population of less than 3,000,000 people has an army of 337,000 of the most martial soldiers of Europe—armed, equipped and ready to take the field at a mo-

PUBLIC CONTROL OF COAL MINES.

The government majority in the House of Commons this week voted down a resolution setting forth that the time has arrived when coal lands owned by the government should not be allenated save under such conditions and regulations as will provide for ar immediate supply of coal, adequate at all times to the requirements of the people and at a reasonable price to the consumer, and recommending that in respect to lands already alienated legislative provision should be made for their control and regulation in case of emergencies.

It is improbable that this your reflects

tive provision eshould be made for their control and regulation in case of emergencies.

It is improbable that this vote reflects any definite policy on the part of the government unfavorable to the strengthening of the public grasp upon the production of this great public necessity. The real significance of the resolution was clouded by political manoeuvring on the part of its supporters. It was moved during the discussion of the government's action on mediating between the mine operators and the strikers at Lethbridge and was so placed before the House that its passage would have been practically a vote of ceasure of the government, and naturally causing its defeat. But we venture to predict that before long the government of Canada will be found taking action slong the lines recommended in that resolution. In the United States, President Roosevelt, alarmed at the increasing helplessness of the people in the hands of the private corporations now owing the bulk of the coal mines under operation, has given orders that no more coal-bearing lands may be allenated from the 50,000,000 acres known to exist. It is said the president hopes to secure from congress a law providing that in future all such lands shall be granted on the leasehold rather than on the freehold plan. This would give the government the whip hand over lessees who proved as recalcitrant as Mr. Baer, "the coal operator by divine right."

This policy is wise and well worthy of imitation. In the present state of political morals the success of operation of coal mines is doubtful but that the great natural resources, these natural reservoirs of light and power and heat, upon which the prosperity of the nation and the comfort of every person depend, should be kept sufficiently under the public control to prevent them from becoming a means for private extortion and oppression is incontrovertible.—St. John Sun.

AUTOMOBILE TRAGEDY.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—The coroner's jury today returned a verdict of unavoidable accident in the case of Samuel West, the colored boy who was run over yesterday and killed by Joseph H. Leiter's automobile. Mr. Leiter will meet the funeral expenses and also make an allowance for the family of the dead boy. Charles H. Raymond, the chauffeur, was arrested.

ON ENGLISH COAST

Many Small Wrecks are Reported, and Life Boat Crews

Have Exciting and Terrible Experiences at
the Work of Rescue.

London, Eag. Dec. 24.—Christmas, at 100%, will be memorable, but he united by the memorable, but he memorable, but he makes of the law and the coast, and will be excused, and, while specified in many years.

London, Eag. Dec. 24.—Christmas, at 100%, will be memorable, but he united by the memorable in many years.

London, Eag. Dec. 24.—Christmas, at 100%, will be memorable, but he united by the memorable in many years.

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London, Eag. Dec. 24.—Christmas, at 100%, will be memorable, but he united by the memorable in many years.

London, Eag. Dec. 24.—Christmas, at 100%, will be experiences at the Work of Rescue.

London, Eag. Dec. 24.—Christmas, at 100%, will be experiences at 100%, will be experienced in many years.

London, Eag. Dec. 24.—Christmas, at 100%, will be experiences at 100%, will be experienced in many years.

London, Eag. Dec. 24.—Christmas, at 100%, will be experienced in many years.

London, Eag. Dec. 24.—Christmas, at 100%, will be experienced in many years.

London, Eag. Dec. 24.—Christmas, at 100%, will be only be a thirty of the health of Rescue.

The seamer Hazdidene struck a rock and a many and in Scotland the snow was accommended to the seamoner Ringisader, weeked of an exciting experience. Another after the weeken and a status will be a status with any part of Canada. The timeness investigation of the saw and some of this province fast the coal whart, were determined any part of Canada. The timeness investigation of the province fast the coal whart, were determined any part of Canada. The timeness investigation of the province fast the coal whart, were determined any part of Canada. The timeness investigation of the province fast the saw and the coal whart, were determined the province of the coal whart, were determined the province of the coal whart we

Did you overlook anyone

on your present list?

If so, drop in and see what we can do for you.

GILLETTE SAFETY RAZORS \$5.00 ··· 1.50 EVER-READY " MANICURE SETS, in Leather Cases, from 3.50 LADIES' SCISSOR SETS, in Leather

Cases, from..... 2.25 POCKET CUTLERY at all prices. CARVING SETS in 3 and 5 pieces. SILVER WARE and TABLE CUTLERY. CHAFING DISHES and TRAYS.

The Ogilvie Hardware Co.,

"THE STORE FOR GOOD GOODS."

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

MR. FULTON'S POSITION.

selier, with the woodrous invented to the cand with the bundreds of card, seller to the many departments of Spencer's Arcade, with the bundreds of customers surging, buying verious wares all were busier than any other season has ever known.

Bretywhere the same tale was to be told, victorians had found themselves, and their felt their future was assured and were earer to make merty.

With holly, evergreen, and the flowers that grow here when snow breaks down like the Christmas trees were dressed while the Blittle ones who had watched in vain and asked him the question the growing and and seld upon the legendary bringer of presents, were asseep. Childhood's faith is grand, and asked him the question the growing and asked him the duestion the growing

EARTHQUAKE DESTROYS HALF OF THE TOWN

A PALMIST'S

Friday, December 28,

"You are a loyar friency youngsters, Mrs. Bridges, bu not be a miracle to be the

ness man in barracks, you think he looks quite Saue enough for an Eng. Sapper anyway," she ret the Colonel joined good-natur laugh against himself.

At that moment a very n tleman strode across the gr

the pair, saluting the lady devotion and hailing her i

"Ah, Miss Versturme, you the girls. You spoil these yo cher-knows from the Old Co forget that you belong to us. been looking for you all after The girl laughed.
"We can't all belong to your Perkins. The law forbids."
"The law be hanged. Whare concerned there is no ladiers," and his chest expands braces creaked.
"I thought that the army we

his braces creaked.
"I thought that the army we do to support the law."
"Quite wrong, my dear, I a To support the ladies. Your has been neglected; let me i Antrobus has had his turn."
The girl flushed to the ti delicate ears, and the vertica tween her companion's eyes brows, whilst the eyes thems tracted and flashed savagely.
"Does he look same now?"

"Does he look sane now?" Colonel Mansfield to Mrs. B "Miss Versturme has don honor to ask me to take he father, sir. When I have do will come and talk to you miss Versturme if she will a "You! Oh, no one wants you; at least, I don't when many pretty girls about." o many pretty girls about," i

unabashed militia man. "Kee for your most devoted ton Versturme," and he strutted g that splendid political organ, soon making itself heard as ant note in the chorus on the "What a brute that fellow ed Antrobus, as he led his round a buttress and out broad walk looking seaward. "The world is full of such, means no harm. What did yo say to him if he had accepted vitation?"

"It would have been a liview, but, Harry, how do you are going be get through life, to teach every one manners tures to look at me? I am afr "Sorry already, little wome She paused and looked up and as she did so her laug grew grave. It was almost possion a man to quarrel over the But the wistfulness in her ed him. It was too soon even

ed him. It was too soon even "Ah, forgive me, Francis! trobus temper is a devil which exorcised, but that Satyr's loo most a defilement. My fings to meet in his bull throat. But good if you forgive me."

"There is nothing to forgive, softly, putting her hand in harm, "but I am a little afras you know. He must remark the street was the same than the s again, the two came in sight of older people gathered round hued pavilion.

"There's my father taking " ellencies to the palmist. A ord X want to consult her for only India left for him, and at will tell him his characte

"She may not agree with "She never does with any on is awfully rude sometimes."
"Was she rude to you?"
"Not rude, but she wasn't
"Then you have been to

"No, I will not, sir. You may
my faults for yourself or stay
make a bargain. Go and ha
hand read, and we will "swap y
the Americans say. Will you
"Isn't it rather feeble?"
"I want you to. Won't you? "Your lady does, and wish bonne fertune," and with a da sumption of dignity she swep

urtsey and went to play hericks as she called them to tellencies. On a patch of mountain grounds rocks as Nature clad golden stonecrop, and ping peuce in a glade of stunted wind twist

stood an Indian tepee, vivid As soon as he could gain as Antrobus entered.

Through the coloring of the strong afternoon sun barely masses that he found himself in a climbt face to face to face with

She was beautiful, that was denial, but her beauty was t agniline beauty of the Cree, tho was as white as he was, or ne that its statement. he rich autumnal coloring on he being perhaps the effect of the which she sat.

tht, face to face with a cur

At any rate no one could have her hole on her fantastic gast than she did.

Of course Antrobus had met fore, but she put a stop at one badinage. She was the seer n would play no other part.

"You don't believe in palmist Antrobus?"

Antrobus?"

"Is that written in my hand?"

"No, but many other things a astonishing plainness, and some not in harmony with the disbel profess. For instance, you a tremely superstitious as your were."

Antrobus colored uneasily. We this woman know of his people? "And yet they must have ha age since some of them faced with feared before they were obliged. The man's face went white wi and she saw it, but instead of o ing any sign of fear, a gleam of came into her eyes and she said. "If you are afraid I will not Mr. Antrobus, but you have chathe sybil and you cannot expect lie." "Continue, if you please he of the sybil and you cannot expect the sybil and you please he of the sybil and you please he of the sybil and you please he of the sybil and you cannot expect the sybil and you cannot expect

lie." Continue, if you please, by all but it was my fortune you were was it not?"

"Certainly, and there is plenty and the first of it is plainly but." and she bent her head low paused. "It grows confused. It here and begins again. Yes! It same woman and you will mand—oh!"

She looked up at him, and