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Confidential.

OTTAWA, June 2, 1900.

The Hon. T. R. McINNES,
Government House, Victoria, B.C.

MY DEAR McINNES,—Referring to your letter of May 25, commenting on our correspondence.

My letter of August 30, was not intended 'to convey official directions and instructions in the form of a confidential communication,' but was only a suggestion due to a report that I had heard you were bringing pressure to bear on your Government to call the Legislature before they were ready to meet it, and the advice was certainly sound, as I consider it would have been indefensible for a Governor General or Lieutenant-Governor to force his Government to call the Legislature under the circumstances then existing.

You seem to think that the advice subsequently given as to the Martin Government was inconsistent with the suggestion in my letter of August 30. I do not so regard it. The two cases have no parallel; there is no analogy between the cases. In the one there was a responsible Government whose members had been endorsed by the people; in the latter case not a single member of the existing Government had then, or even has up to the present time, received the approval of the people. Only one of them had ever been a member of the Legislature, and he had no following; and I think it is without any parallel in the history of constitutional government that a body of men, five-sixths of whom had never been members of the Legislature, should be permitted to carry on a Government for three months without any public sanction or approval. It is useless now to comment on it. I was very sorry at the line taken, and as you must have observed by the public press all over the Dominion, the propriety of the action taken has been very severely criticised. I have always recognized that the conditions existing in British Columbia during the last eighteen months made your position a most difficult one—the bitter personal feeling shown between the rivals for place and power intensified the embarrassment as the rivals were so nearly equal in numbers—you certainly have not had an easy task in your efforts to guide the ship of State.

Yours truly,

R. W. SCOTT.

EXTRACT from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on June 21, 1900.

On a memorandum dated June 20, 1900, from the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, stating that the action of the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia in dismissing his Ministers has not been approved by the people of that province, and further, that in view of recent events in the said Province of British Columbia it is evident that the Government of that province cannot be successfully carried on in the manner contemplated by the constitution, under the administration of the present Lieutenant-Governor, His Honour Thomas R. McInnes, whose official conduct has been subversive of the principles of responsible government.

The Right Honourable the Premier submits that therefore Mr. McInnes' usefulness as Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia is gone, and he recommends that Mr. McInnes be removed from the said office, and that the cause to be assigned for such removal under the provisions of Section 59 of the British North America Act shall be the matters set forth in this Minute.

The Committee submit the foregoing for Your Excellency's approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

The Honourable
The Secretary of State.