

Official and Exclusive.

Hon. Mr. Martin Gives to The Times the Only Authentic Statement of the Dispute.

His Side of the Case Fully Stated.

He Denies the Allegations of the Premier and Demands That Charges be Made in Writing—Interviews With Other Members of the Cabinet.

News was received in the city from Vancouver last evening that Hon. C. A. Semlin, premier of the province, had formally requested Hon. Joseph Martin, Attorney-General, to hand in his resignation of the portfolio he has held since the formation of the present administration. The news reached the Times by wire late in the evening, and was fully confirmed by the Attorney-General and by Premier Semlin to-day.

The reasons actuating Mr. Semlin in the course adopted are fully set forth in the statement sent by him to Mr. Martin, at the request of the Attorney-General, and in reply to the statement Mr. Martin has to-day forwarded the letter printed below:

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Victoria, July 3rd, 1899.

Dear Mr. Martin:
Yours of the 1st reached me this p.m. In it you say you think it would be more satisfactory if I would put in writing the ground upon which I asked you to resign your seat in my government.

I think I mentioned your absence from your office.

The discussion of executive matters outside of the council and to parties not of the council.

Your speech at the Rossland banquet in which you threatened that an appropriation should not be expended because some of those present had offended you.

Yours respectfully,
(Signed) C. A. SEMLIN.
Mr. Martin's reply read as follows:
July 5th 1899.

Honorable C. A. Semlin Premier

Dear Mr. Semlin: Your letter of the 3rd inst. in which you give your reasons for requesting me to resign your office.

The first reason is my absence from my office. Allow me to point out that this is the first occasion in which you have found fault with me for this although I have from the very first attended to my private practice and it has been understood that I should do so. It has I understand not been considered in the past that the Attorney-General for the time being should give up his private practice and if such a rule were made, it would, I think, be considered by all that it would be impossible to obtain the services of a competent lawyer to act as Attorney-General. Allow me to say, however, that my department is in first-class shape, and I am perfectly willing to have its present state compared with that of any other department of the government. You are quite aware that that cannot be said of your own departmental management. If, in your opinion, the failure to manage a department is a reason why a member of the government should resign his position, then I am surprised that you did not resign from the government when it became evident to everybody that you had entirely failed to administer properly the Department of Lands and Works, and you had to admit this by consenting to a transfer to the Department of Provincial Secretary.

This transfer took place, as you are well aware, for no other reason except that you were utterly unfit to administer the Department of Lands and Works. The members in that department had got into

such a condition that the members of the government were unwilling to take any further responsibility with regard to it, unless you gave it up.

Your next reason is that I have discussed executive matters outside of the council and to parties not of the council. This charge has no truth in it whatever, and I would be glad if you would furnish particulars of any such discussion. I think I am aware, however, what you refer to. I fancy it is the discussion which occurred when the Vancouver delegation appeared before the government with regard to Deadman's Island. What I did then was to inform the delegation that the statements made at that meeting and prior thereto by the Honorable Mr. Cotton were incorrect, and that he was simply expressing his own opinion in disregard of the opinion of the government. He undertook to speak in the name of the government. You will remember that in this connection Mr. Cotton telegraphed Mayor Gordon had decided to determine the question of title to Deadman's Island before they considered what disposition they would make of it. You are aware that the government had never decided upon any such policy, but in order to back up his position in the matter Mr. Cotton deliberately falsified the records of the council and was compelled by the council to amend the same and strike out from the records a statement to the above effect as the same had never been agreed upon by the council, and never should have been in the records. It appears to be that you would have been quite justified in asking for Mr. Cotton's dismissal upon the above grounds.

The last reason that you give is that at Rossland I threatened that an appropriation should not be expended because some present had offended me. You are aware that you have never asked me for any explanation with regard to the correctness of the report in the newspapers for the Rossland matter, and in asking for my resignation upon this ground you assumed that the newspaper reports were correct without calling upon me for any explanation. This it seems to me shows that you are hard up for a reason to ask for my resignation when you would fall back upon one of this kind. I was probably indiscreet at Rossland and I should have been very happy to have given you a full explanation of what occurred there had you asked for the same, and I feel sure after hearing my explanation you would have felt that it was entirely out of place to request my resignation on a ground of that kind.

Now Mr. Semlin, having dealt with the three reasons given by you for asking my resignation I beg to repeat in writing what I stated to you on Saturday that I did not propose to resign my position in the cabinet and I charge that the reasons given by you are only pretences and that you have been induced to ask for my resignation by Mr. Cotton, that you and Mr. Cotton have entered into a conspiracy to wreck the present government and drive from it all the Liberals, with the idea of forming a Conservative government.

I am informed and believe that you have already negotiated with Mr. Helmcken and Mr. Higgins with a view of their entering a government of this kind. I know that you have not consulted either Dr. McKechnie or Mr. Hume with regard to asking for my resignation. This contemplated course on the part of Mr. Cotton and yourself is in my opinion a gross outrage upon the electors of the province. Dominion party lines were expressly ignored by the late government and the present government parties in the last general election. While it appears that there are in the present House a majority of Conservatives that

is a mere accident and they were not elected as such. For you therefore to attempt to form a government which would depend for its support upon these gentlemen who happen to be Conservatives, would, it appears to me, entirely nullify the vote which took place on July 9th last. I feel satisfied that your attempt to carry out a conspiracy of this nature will not meet with success. At any rate you can depend upon every effort being made by me to frustrate it, and I feel certain that the Conservatives of the province who voted for the late opposition will be entirely opposed to any such attempt. I have urged you to call the supporters of the government in the House together in caucus, to consider the Deadman's Island question, which has created such an agitation in the city of Vancouver. I think that course should still be adopted, and I think in addition that it is absolutely necessary now that our supporters should be called together to determine whether your course in calling for my resignation is in accordance with their wishes. If it is I am prepared at once to resign, but I protest against your right to ask for my resignation.

You are, as a matter of fact, the Premier of this province, but you are well aware of the circumstances under which you obtained that position. At a caucus which took place of government supporters in Vancouver, shortly after the formation of the government, it was intended that the members should elect the leader of the present government party. That caucus had been adjourned for that express purpose. In the meantime you had been called upon to form an administration, and had done so as I contended in defiance of your obligations to your supporters. When the caucus took place a motion approving of your course was proposed and withdrawn as it could get no support. It was intended then that a vote should be taken as to who should be the leader of the party. You, however, stated that if you were not confirmed in your position as Premier, you would resign from the house. As at that time we had only a majority of one, we could not afford to lose a single supporter, and you were therefore in a position to compel us to accept your terms.

In doing so you were distinctly informed by a number of members present that they only agreed to retain you as Premier because they were forced by your action to do so, and you were distinctly informed that the matter was simply allowed to stand until the party became strong enough to deal with the question upon its merits. You are, therefore, the Premier of this province only by sufferance, and in demanding my resignation you do not command a majority of the supporters of the government in the house. If my statement upon this point is correct, then, instead of me resigning from the government, it is your duty to take that step at once. If you have any doubt as to whether my statement is correct or not that doubt can be dispelled by calling a caucus of the government supporters forthwith.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH MARTIN.

A Times reporter met Mr. Martin this morning and found him just as good-humored as ever. The Attorney-General preferred to confine his statement as to the position of affairs to the letter now published. He expressed himself to the effect that many calumnious rumors had been circulated regarding him and his doings in the city, which he is now determined to trace home. He has learned enough to-day, he says, to satisfy him that many stories which have been told would require but few words for their utter disproof.

Hon. Mr. Semlin had nothing to say for publication at this time. The Lieutenant-Governor being away renders delay inevitable, it being the duty of the Premier to report first of all to His Honor.

Hon. Mr. Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, had nothing to say. He knew nothing beyond what had appeared in the paper, and indicated that at this time it would be worse than useless to discuss the events referred to.

Nanaimo Free Press in its issue of yesterday says:

Attorney-General Martin left this morning for Vancouver after a few days' visit to this city. The presence of the Attorney-General in our midst has given rise to a variety of rumors in regard to radical changes in the provincial political situation. While the majority of the reports are probably without a particle of foundation, the Free Press has been informed (from an unofficial source, however) that several changes are contemplated in the near future. The fact is that Hon. Joseph Martin has decided to resign his position in the government, even if he does not entirely withdraw from provincial politics. It has been an open secret for some time that Hon. J. F. Hume, the Minister of Mines, is anxious to be relieved, as he desires to de-

vote his time to his personal affairs. The information goes further, and states that in the cabinet changes the fifth portfolio will be filled. The programme outlined is that Hon. Mr. Semlin, Hon. Mr. Cotton and Hon. Dr. McKechnie will retain their present cabinet positions, Mr. Ralph Smith, M.P.P. for South Nanaimo, to be Minister of Mines; Mr. Henderson M.P.P. of New Westminster to be Attorney-General, and the fifth cabinet position will be given to one of the Kootenay members, probably Mr. J. Martin. The report that there will be a dissolution of the provincial parliament, immediately on the return of Lieutenant-Governor McInnes, the Free Press understands, unofficially of course, is without the slightest foundation in fact.

Hon. J. Fred Hume, Minister of Mines, was seen by a Times reporter and joined with his colleagues in the statement that he has nothing to say for publication at this juncture. As to the assertion by the Free Press of Nanaimo that he is "anxious to be relieved, as he desires to devote his time to his personal affairs," Mr. Hume told the reporter there is nothing to be said.

Hon. Dr. McKechnie came down from Nanaimo to-day and was seen by the Times man. The president of the council says the "state" of a cabinet published in the Free Press is "nonsense."

Of the circumstances of the cabinet crisis Dr. McKechnie has nothing to say.

Over Sixty Lives Lost

In the Floods Which Have Wrought Great Havoc in Texas.

Damage to Property Will Amount to Several Millions of Dollars.

(Associated Press.)

Houston, Tex., July 5.—A correspondent who has just returned from a trip through the flooded district says: "Half has not been told of the havoc wrought. The disaster is so appalling that a description is not possible. After this flood will come sickness, undoubtedly, and what a week ago was the fairest part of Texas, is now almost a God-forsaken wilderness."

The waters of the Brazos have for six days covered the valley to a depth of from six to thirty feet. Where a week ago were fields of cotton and corn and thousands of acres of water melons and cantelopes, to-day is slimy mud covering all vegetation, and the carcasses of cows, mules, dogs and cats. Everything is under water from 2 to 17 feet. I saw hundreds of houses totally submerged and as many more were swept from the foundations and destroyed.

The planters of bottoms are still moping their help and whatever is left of their stock to places where they can be cared for. They are all nobly helping each other, and taking refuge wherever they can.

The flooded district has a length of over 500 miles and breadth of 50 miles. The loss of life will never be known, perhaps. To show the damage done the following estimates have been made by men who are in a position to know: Lives lost, over sixty; loss to farmers, from \$5,000,000 to \$15,000,000; damage to railroads and country bridges, \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000.

Floods in Kansas.
Humboldt, Kas., July 5.—The Neosho Valley is flooded by a 24 hours' rain, and is under 6 feet of water. Many fields of wheat are gone, and corn along the river will be damaged. C. Brady, a farmer, was drowned while trying to save some stock. It is feared the flood will exceed the one of 1865.

"One good turn deserves another." Those who have been cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla are glad to tell others about it.

It is a curious fact that the roots and branches of a tree are so alike in their nature, that if the tree be uprooted and turned upside down, the underground branches will take unto themselves the functions of roots, and the exposed roots will in time bud and become veritable branches.

Awarded Highest Honors—World's Fair. Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER

A Pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD

Two Bold Highwaymen

Hold-Up the Greenwood Stage Twelve Miles From Camp McKinney.

Armed With Revolvers They Ordered the Driver to Hand Over the Mail.

(Special to the Times.)

Bosburg, Wash., July 4.—Saturday night's mail stage between Greenwood and Camp McKinney was held up by two highwaymen at Johnson creek, 12 miles from McKinney.

As the stage, driven by Joe Snodgrass, was ascending a hill two masked men stepped from behind the trees, covered the stage with revolvers, and ordered the driver to throw out the mail. He did so without resistance, as each bandit had two revolvers.

The passengers, A. Cameron, Greenwood; C. Coles, Montreal, and W. McKay and wife, Duluth, were not molested.

The robbers then ordered the driver to go on.

The men were interrupted in rifling the 12 sacks of mail by the arrival of two freighting teams. They cut open three sacks and escaped with one containing the Greenwood registered mail. The other mail was recovered by the freighters.

It is supposed they were after the monthly bank returns and a package from Timber Inspector Murray containing \$1,600.

The highwaymen probably escaped across the boundary line, which is only two miles distant from Johnson creek.

Troops For South Africa

Unless Situation Improves Large Reinforcements Will Be Sent Immediately.

Arrangements Have Been Made for the Despatch of Over 40,000 Men.

London, July 5.—The Pall Mall Gazette this afternoon says the secretary for war, the Marquis of Lansdowne, in conjunction with the military chiefs, has completed arrangements for the despatch of from 40,000 to 50,000 troops, of all arms, to South Africa in the event of matters taking a turn for the worse.

It is added that necessary arrangements have been made there for the distribution of the troops on their arrival.

THE AMEER IN DANGER.

Fired at by Afghans, While His Brother Tried to Bribe a Cook to Poison Him.

(Associated Press.)

London, July 5.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Globe says: "Advices have been received there from Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, that an African recently discharged a rifle point blank at the Ameer, but missed him, the bullet lodging in the shoulder of a general standing near by."

The advices also say that the Ameer's brother, Isbak Khan, attempted to bribe a cook to poison the Ameer, and when he was discovered Isbak fled into Russian Asia, and the cook was hanged.

Persons troubled with diarrhoea will be interested in the experience of Mr. W. M. Bahl, clerk of Hotel Dorrance, Providence, R. I. He says: "For several years I have been almost a constant sufferer from diarrhoea, the frequent attacks completely prostrating me and rendering me unfit for my duties at this hotel. About two years ago a traveling salesman kindly gave me a small bottle of Chamberlain's Colic Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. Much to my surprise and delight its effects were immediate. Whenever I felt symptoms of the disease I would fortify myself against the attack with a few doses of this valuable remedy. The result has been very satisfactory and almost complete relief from the affliction." For sale by Henderson Bros., Wholesale Agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

The American authorities have authorized the extradition of Joseph A. Richardson, formerly of Winalago, who is in custody at St. Paul, charged with embezzlement and forgery.

CRITICIZING THE PRINCE.

Anna Gould's Husband on the Euler of Monaco's Invitation to Dreyfus.

Paris, July 5.—Comte de Castellane, who married Miss Anna Gould, has addressed a communication to the Prince of Monaco, sharply criticizing the Prince for his recent letter to Mme. Dreyfus, inviting her and her husband to sojourn at his chateau after the prisoner's acquittal, of which the Prince expressed himself confident.

The Comte, who charges the Prince with "interfering in an affair in which you are in no way concerned," says: "If, as a foreign sovereign, you thought you could influence French officers in the grave verdict they are about to pronounce, I beg to note that we do not stand on an equal footing, as none of us would condescend to call to account a Prince who is under tutelage. You are, perhaps, a relative of Dreyfus by marriage, but in that case it is premature to triumph. If, on the other hand, it is as a protector of gambling houses that you intervene, permit me to tell you that Dreyfus himself would dispense with your services."

Where Is Sir Hibbert?

Dr. Landerkin Asks the Question in the House of Commons.

Premier Laurier on the London Times Comments Regarding Tupper's Charges.

Ottawa, July 5.—In the House to-day Mr. Davin read an article from a Montreal newspaper referring to an editorial in the London Times partially favoring the resolution of Sir Hibbert Tupper.

Premier Laurier in reply said Mr. Davin was guilty of abuse of the privilege of the House in dragging up a matter 27 years old in connection with this affair, but that as Davin referred to the Times he would not take any notice of him. The Times was a highly respectable paper, but it was formerly made the victim of a hoax. Richard Pigott, the forger, had connected Parnell's name with a crime, character. The Times was again made the victim of a hoax from this side of the ocean. There was another Richard Pigott on this side of the Atlantic. The Times had gone to the conclusion without evidence, and before it was possible for full information to have reached it.

Sir Hibbert read a dispatch from Vancouver stating that George, editor of the Klondike Nugget, had repudiated the charge Sir Hibbert made against Judge Duggan.

Sir Charles Tupper made a frothy speech, referring to George, of the Nugget, and objecting to him as being spoken of as a purchasable commodity.

Dr. Landerkin replying to Sir Charles Tupper asked where Sir Hibbert was. He (Sir Hibbert) made charges on a former occasion and ran away, and now again he made additional charges and ran away. There were only 29 Conservatives in the House who would demand his resignation, and Mr. Haggart and Dr. Sprule refused to vote on that occasion.

ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE.

The United States Ambassador Says It Is No New Thing—The Destiny of the New Century.

(Associated Press.)

London, July 5.—At the Fourth of July reception given by United States Ambassador Choate last night to a number of distinguished English and American guests, the ambassador made one of the most dignified and statesmanlike addresses he has yet delivered in England, praising the Anglo-Saxon alliance.

The speaker declared the Anglo-American alliance no new thing, as was evidenced by the lowering of the British flag in the Channel fleet on the death of Washington, by the sorrow for Lincoln, and by honest grief at the demise of Garfield. He also referred in eloquent terms to England's sympathy in the recent war with Spain, and concluded his remarks by proposing "The day we celebrate."

Senator Lodge responded with a most patriotic expression of the determination of the American people to carry out the war in the Philippines, "Not selfishly, but for the civilization of that people." Mark Twain also responded, and kept the company most of the time in laughter, but closed with this pathetic reference to the alliance, "Wherever one soldier finds himself beneath the shelter of the other's flag, he knows he is not an alien but a kinsman of the blood and at home."

Cardinal Vaughan responded to "The community of English speaking nations," saying that the destiny of the new century depended on the question whether the despotic power now looming in North Asia or the liberty loving Anglo-Saxon was to control the great uncivilized east.

Other toasts followed.

"I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in my family for years and always with good results," says Mr. W. B. Cooper of El Rio, Cal. "For small children we find it especially effective." For sale by Henderson Bros., Wholesale Agents, Victoria and Vancouver.