

**GOVERNMENT NOT YET FORMED.**

The Hon. Richard McBride, member of the Executive Council and Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, instructed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor with the duty of forming a Cabinet, has made a lamentable beginning. He has displayed his entire ignorance of constitutional procedure, parliamentary practice and provincial law, through his mouthpiece in the Legislature, the Hon. R. G. Tatlow, President of the Council, by asking that body at this juncture to appoint ten members of the Assembly a committee to revise the estimates and select bills to have passed before the dissolution of the Assembly. Constitutionally this is work that can only be done with any practical effect by Ministers of the Crown properly appointed, who have accepted office and have been sworn in as members of the Executive Council, before His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, and who have sought and been elected in accordance with law. The McBride government has not yet been formed. The Constitution Act provides that the Executive Council must consist of an Attorney-General, a Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, a Minister of Mines, a Provincial Secretary and Minister of Education, and a Minister of Finance and Agriculture. So far Mr. McBride has only secured a Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works by taking that office himself. We showed yesterday by a quotation from "The Parliamentary Government" that Messrs. Prior, Eberts and Prentice retain the seals of office and continue in full possession of their official authority and functions until their successors are appointed and sworn in. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor dismissed, Colonel Prior, so he cannot accept advice from him or any of his late colleagues, and he certainly cannot accept advice from the ten members of the Legislature forming this committee, as they are not members of the Executive Council in any sense. The farcical act of members of the Assembly voting on the estimates yesterday which had been presented by the Prior government makes one wonder as to what depth of idocy the members can further descend. Responsible government no longer exists in British Columbia when the Legislature in session votes on estimates for which no Ministry is responsible. Can ignorance of the first principles of representative government be further exemplified when the Legislature Assembly, presumably representing the cream of the intelligence in the province, solemnly commits such acts? What next may be expected?

Bourinot, on the government of Canada, says: "If parliament is sitting on the occasion of a ministerial crisis it is usual to adjourn from day to day, and for questions to be asked with respect to the progress made with the formation of a ministry. "The motion to adjourn may be made, when necessary, by one of the ex-ministers at the request of the person who has been entrusted with the duty of forming a ministry. "While a ministry is being reconstructed, or ministers are seeking re-election, it is not usual for the House to transact any business, except what is purely routine. "It is an essential principle of responsible government that members of the Legislature accepting offices of emolument should seek re-election at once, in order to give their constituents an opportunity to express approval or otherwise of their conduct in doing so. The only proper course for Mr. McBride is to fill up his Cabinet at once and for him and his colleagues to seek re-election in accordance with law. When that has been properly accomplished he can advise His Honor as to the estimates or dissolution of the Assembly, or any other business, but until he has formed a government he is only a member of the Executive Council, intrusted with the duty of doing so, and can only advise His Honor as to who should be appointed in order to make the Cabinet complete. The Legislature should only recognize him so far in that capacity.

**GETTING IN LINE.**

Liberals have now, and all the people of British Columbia will have later on, reason to be thankful that Hon. Richard McBride, Premier and leader of the Conservative party, took an early opportunity of revealing the truth in regard to his character for honor, integrity and good faith. Mr. McBride has taught Liberals the necessity for unity of purpose and harmony of action in order that the province may be released from the straits which are already closing in upon it, although the Conservative government is not yet formed. Does any one doubt what we say? The despoilers and grafters are already on the ground. The "machine" which did so much for Colonel Prior in all his Dominion campaigns, and in his one provincial election, has already organized and set its wheels in motion. It is notable in the lobbies and in the committee rooms of the House. The heads of the government may be changed, but the old gang, with that marvelous faculty for always emerging on top no matter what upheaval may take place, have given another illustration of their ability to land in a posture which will give them the first advantage when there are any good things to grab. And there are always great rewards for the favored few when Conservative governments are in power, as British Columbia knows to her cost. Mr. Joseph Martin has laid down the

leadership of the party, and we believe by his act has removed any doubt that he may have been entertained as to the ability of Liberals to attend to the case of the first recognized Conservative Premier and Tory party of British Columbia. The Times is free to confess its gratification that the situation with which the Liberal party is confronted has aroused its leaders to a sense of their responsibilities to the province. After all, it is stable, responsible, honest government we need in British Columbia, not the glory of any individual or the ascendancy of any party. We believe the political aggregation which by its acts gives evidence to the people of the dominance of any other spirit within its ranks than that of unselfish patriotism will receive short shrift when the day of execution arrives. Men of character, of proved integrity of purpose and of unselfish devotion to the interests of the country, are needed for the restoration of confidence in the future of this province of unequalled resources. Therefore it is a matter for the sincerest congratulation that members of the Liberal party will now be able to approach this crisis in a proper spirit, to forget the petty differences and the personal disagreements of the past and place the strongest men to be found within the ranks of the party in the field for the great struggle in which we shall all soon be engaged.

For the part Hon. Richard McBride has taken in this much-to-be-desired consummation and for the light he has shed upon his own character, as we have already said, there is abundant reason for gratification. Occasionally the acts of the selfish and petty-minded rebound to the good of the country.

**THE SESSION'S RESULTS.**

The session of the Legislature which has just come to an end was not altogether a barren waste of words, although the members were called together as close to All Pools' Day as was compatible with the dignity of the Premier. The results achieved were for the most part negative. But they were a necessary and preliminary part of the programme of reform which must sooner or later be undertaken. For that task a stronger and firmer hand than that of Premier McBride must be selected.

The prominent feature of the session was of course the defeat of the government, following the revelations in connection with the attempt to convey to C. P. R. grants of land supposed to be exceedingly rich in that which is in some respects more precious than gold—coal—grants which have been declared by the action of the Legislature not to have been earned. Following the passage of the want of confidence motions came the most sensational revelation of all, relating to the tenders for cables to be used in the construction of the Chimney Creek bridge, which dispelled whatever hope the Premier had of securing a dissolution and the privilege of appealing to the electorate. The final sensation came with the formation of a Conservative government by Mr. McBride. We do not know that this last act of treachery on the part of the leader of the opposition should have caused any considerable degree of surprise. The utterance of the man in the House, the uncertainty of his attitude towards the chief sinners in the deal, his vacillations in speech and act, indicated quite clearly to the members who did the fighting and accomplished the result which gave Mr. McBride the opportunity to betray them, that the leader of the opposition was not a man in whom confidence could be reposed. When Mr. McBride's political friends represented to him the value of the service he could perform for the Conservative party all thought of fealty to his colleagues in the Legislature, of the pledges he had given or authorized to be given on the platform and in private, were forgotten. With the farewell kiss of a Judas, with a magnanimous promise to meet them on equal terms on the field of political carnage, Mr. McBride turned his back upon the only militant element in his following. He is to-day at the head of a Conservative government.

There is no mourning amongst Liberals because of the disruption of the alliance. There was never any element of permanency in it. It was out of the question to expect the fullest confidence and cordiality under the circumstances. There was ever present a feeling that when the obvious parting of the ways was reached the opposition party would divide without regret. As we have said, the division came unexpectedly. Of the manner of its accomplishment Liberals have no reason to feel ashamed. They have something to thank Mr. McBride for as well as a score to settle with him and his government. He has taught them the imperative necessity of unity of action and that it is by no means a misfortune for a party to pass the first few months of its recognized existence as a party in opposition.

Morally and by right of conquest the Liberals of British Columbia are entitled to the seats held to-day by the members of the McBride government. The leader of that government took practically no part in the uncovering of the scandals which overwhelmed Colonel Prior. Nor did any of his colleagues with the single exception of Mr. McPhillips. We have a shrewd suspicion that the Hon. A. E. would have been held in leash if his leader had dared to cast the loop. Mr. McBride was not at all comfortable

while the inquiry into the Columbia & Western canal was proceeding. He will be still more uncomfortable before the campaign is over. Mr. John Oliver's ammunition is by no means exhausted, and he is an expert marksman. As the Colonel has truly said, Mr. McBride will pass some sleepless nights when the member for Delta gets his quick-firing artillery laid. Some big game will come down. But while all we have said as to the relative position of the parties is true, we do not regard it as a calamity that Mr. McBride is in the seat of power. If he had carried off his pledges and formed a composite government the fight for party lines would still have to be fought and the question of the leadership of the Liberal party would still have created discord and division. Even if a Liberal had been called in by His Honor the Lieut.-Governor and had undertaken to form a ministry the breach would have remained as wide as ever. The Liberal party would have been in the same, or perhaps a worse, condition than the Conservative party is to-day. Mr. McBride has undertaken the task of conciliating the conflicting elements. He has mollified Mr. Charles Wilson by taking him into the government. There is no Tory within the confines of the Dominion that cannot be conciliated by the gift of a job. But the interior Tories, headed by Mr. John Houston, have done their worst and are out for scalps. Colonel Prior has shouldered his musket and is gathering together a goodly corps of irregulars. All this army cannot be provided for without adding to the already large overdraft at the bank. On the whole it appears to us that the attacking force in the coming fight will have an immense advantage and that Hon. Richard McBride is deserving of thanks for the service he has rendered the Liberal party.

**OUR REPUTATION ABROAD.**

It has been asserted that British Columbia is quite as free from industrial strife and is suffering less from disputes between labor and capital than any other province of the Dominion or any portion of this continent. We do not think that can be true. We are absolutely sure that it is not so. In proportion to our population we have been afflicted with more lockouts and strikes within the last half dozen years than any other section of the habitable globe. We do not pretend to assert that the workmen of British Columbia are more discontented or more domineering and unreasonable than the same classes elsewhere, or that employers are more given to the pleasant pastime of "grinding the faces of the poor" than their fellows in other regions. This misfortune of British Columbia, like many more of the evils from which we suffer, may be conveniently ascribed to the "physical configuration" and rugged nature of the country. The greatest of our needs is capital, and capital is more sensitive and more easily diverted from its courses than quicksilver. Without a generous inflow of capital the wealth of the mountains, of the benches and beds of the rivers, and the riches of the very land itself, which yield its treasure in other parts without a word, of the labor—most partly locked up until the conditions adjust themselves to the peculiar nature of our circumstances. More than any part of the world, probably, capital and labor in British Columbia must go hand in hand on their conquering course. It is because of that obvious fact that their disagreements are so serious in their consequences and attract in such a marked degree the attention of the whole world. Elsewhere the industries are more diversified, the face of the nature is not so stern and unyielding, and the opportunities for the individual to maintain his independence are more numerous.

**KNIPPING THE EX-PREMIER.**

There is a rumor floating around to the effect that the Conservative "machine" in Victoria proposes taking radical steps to create harmony in the party. The average specimen of Toryism hesitates not at all about making sacrifices (of some one else) when sacrifices are considered necessary for the welfare of the whole. It is said to be the intention to shelve Colonel Prior and lay beside him all the past of the party for which he has done so much, notwithstanding some unpardonable "indiscretions." While it has been our misfortune to be at what Mr. Eberts would describe as "daggers-drawn" with the Colonel during the whole of our and the Colonel's career, we should regret exceedingly to see him finally disposed of in that fashion. It is true the ex-Premier has been a flagrant sinner against political ethics as a representative of the people and as a Minister of the Crown. He was compelled to resign his seat in the Dominion House of Commons to avoid being thrown out, and perhaps disqualified for corrupt practices. He was dismissed from the post of Premier of British Columbia by His Honor the Lieut.-Governor for what was mildly, and yet in very forceful language, described as incompatible and at variance with the true principles of parliamentary independence of members, and especially of Ministers of the Crown. But, notwithstanding the proceedings of the courts and the severity of His Honor's language, we cannot but confess that we regard the Colonel's wolfen lapses as the result of his environment and a failure to appreciate the nature of the responsibilities of members and ministers. The Colonel does not understand that the old methods of conducting elections and the business of the country have become obsolete. He does not know that with the advent of responsible government at Ottawa new standards have been set up and that the courts and the people expect the conduct of public men to be to a certain degree in harmony with such enlightened standards. The Colonel is a victim of circumstances and of the loose morality of the party with which he has all his life been allied. He thought he could run public affairs here as they used to conduct them at Ottawa when the Conservative party was making everybody rich (whom it did not drive out of the country) with the great National Policy. Unfortunately for the ex-Premier, he failed to comprehend the fact that it takes very clever men to run a party as the Conservative party was run for twenty years. The men who could rule in that manner are all dead, and the party through which they "worked" the people of Canada is paralyzed. Therefore we say it would be a most ungrateful and ungracious thing to attempt to drive the Colonel out of his last ditch as a public man because of the effects of his early political education. We have had many a stirring round with him, and we look forward to some more with the conditions more nearly equal. And we must confess while saying this that the Colonel takes his reverses as cheerfully and as smilingly as he was wont to take his ill-gotten victories. While we think we as his chief adversary are entitled to a few gloats over our ancient enemy, we must enter a protest against the idea of his former friends and beneficiaries venturing to kick the dismounted and disarmed warrior. We warn them that there is some fight left in him yet. In spite of the change of positions, he will cut a more heroic figure than Hon. Richard McBride.

A bee, unladen, will fly 40 miles an hour, but one coming laden with honey does not travel faster than 12 miles an hour.

A Conservative who claims to have a fairly tight grip of the handle of the machine says Hon. A. E. McPhillips, K. C., will not receive a nomination for Victoria by the party convention. Only the friends of the late government will have a look-in. The Prior wing controls the situation, we know, and we also know it has no great love for the sole representative of the Island in the new government. The Colonel evidently does not relish the idea of falling in behind the man who acquiesced in if he did not take an active part in his defeat—who even pool-poled at the charges which were made and proved against him. Then there is some talk of the usurper dropping the elected leader of the party from his cabinet slate. It is said Mr. Wilson stands no chance whatever of being elected in Vancouver. The Colonel insists that Mr. McBride shall declare that he is only a provisional Premier, and it is supported by that stalwart and truly representative Conservative of the interior, Mr. Houston. Altogether the situation is very much mixed and the future is not exactly bright with promise for the Prior wing. Probably the Premier of the Dominion that cannot be conciliated by the gift of a job. But the interior Tories, headed by Mr. John Houston, have done their worst and are out for scalps. Colonel Prior has shouldered his musket and is gathering together a goodly corps of irregulars. All this army cannot be provided for without adding to the already large overdraft at the bank. On the whole it appears to us that the attacking force in the coming fight will have an immense advantage and that Hon. Richard McBride is deserving of thanks for the service he has rendered the Liberal party.

**FOR GOVERNMENT ROAD.**

Settlers' Association Writes Board of Trade Regarding the Coast-Kootenay Railway.

At yesterday's meeting of the board of trade council the secretary was instructed to write for further information regarding the following communication which the executives of space prevented from being published in these columns yesterday afternoon:

L. G. McQuade, Esq., President Board of Trade, Victoria, B. C.:

Dear Sir.—Having taken a deep interest in the development of the resources of our country, and the municipality of the Fraser valley, I submit this as a good and sufficient reason for trespassing on your time and attention at this juncture. I wish to direct the attention of your honorable board to the route as surveyed for what is undoubtedly a fine coast route at Okeoverdale, and that distance nearer the Fraser river bridge and Vancouver. The line if constructed on surveyed route will not be in the interest of the city of Victoria or of the municipality of the valley, but, as I conceive, solely in the interest of the company, of which the local manager or president is also proposing officer. I cannot but believe that such action is detrimental to the city's as also the country's interests. Although by some of the sagacious and bold spirits who at present have control, we are looked upon as of small moment, I have a very vivid recollection of the manner in which this same case valued themselves of the efforts of the Settlers' Association to secure and persistently seconded by the Victoria Board of Trade, in securing the assurance for the construction of the Fraser river bridge as a governmental work, undertaken for and on behalf of the country. You will doubtless remember our petition, also requested the construction of the Coast-Kootenay railway should be undertaken, and the construction on the same basis. Had this been done, we would not have the selfish discrimination now so apparent. The time is most opportune to insist the line shall be constructed and owned by the government, and it be operated by whom it may, and with the assistance of the agricultural and rural population of the valley and the influence of Victoria, the injustice mentioned will be removed, we will get the direct route through the gorton of the valley at present remote and but little developed, in which there are several fine tracts of timber. The lands are all patented, and with the advent of a direct line of railway, not only will the agricultural development be promoted, but there will be many small saw and shingle mills located along this route manufacturing the natural resources, which at present are destroyed in the process of clearing the land. These mills will all employ more or less labor, which will require supplies, and the opportunity for the average worker in Vancouver? In the event of Victoria having action in this matter, I am satisfied these municipalities will be with you in four effort. Only to-day at the meeting of the survey committee I had the privilege of addressing that body on the subject, the result being they passed a resolution protesting against the existing order of things, and all being well, I hope to attend the Langley council meeting next Saturday and get that body aroused on the

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**HOW TO PRESERVE HEALTH AND GOOD COLOR.**

Pale, Sallow, or Anemic Girls Restored to the Bright Freshness of Youth By Natural Means—Good Health—Within the Reach of All.

From The Sun, Orangeville, Ont.

Miss Maggie Brownlee, of Orangeville, is a young lady well known to the residents of the town and greatly esteemed by all her acquaintances. Like thousands of other young girls throughout Canada, Miss Brownlee fell a victim to anæmia or watery blood, and for a time, as she says herself, feared she would never again enjoy robust health. Experiences like Miss Brownlee's cannot fail to be of benefit to other pale and anemic girls, and for this reason she kindly consented to give a statement to the Sun for publication. "My illness," said Miss Brownlee, "came on very gradually, and at first it merely seemed as though it was a feeling of depression and tiredness. I kept getting worse, however, and finally had to give up a good position. I was at times troubled with a throbbing, racking headache; my appetite gave out; the least exertion tired me, and my heart would beat painfully. My limbs seemed to feel like weights, and at other times I was suffering from a sinking sensation which I can scarcely describe. I was treated by a good doctor and took a number of remedies, but without any improvement in my condition, and I began to fear that I was doomed to be an invalid. One day a friend who called to see me spoke very highly of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I bought a box of them. I began taking them, and in the course of a few weeks there was no room to doubt that they were helping me. I continued taking the pills for a couple of months or more, when I felt as well and strong as ever I had been. It is about a year since I gave up taking the pills, and I have not since felt the need of any medicine. I think Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a grand medicine, and should be taken by all pale and feeble girls."

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**PROVIDING AID FOR THE MINERS**

**DEFINITE STATEMENT EXPECTED TO-MORROW**

**Union Delegate on Way Home From the Convention—Getting Ready for Campaign.**

Nanaimo, June 5.—Something of a definite nature as to what the Western Federation of Miners propose doing towards the maintenance of the Lady-smith miners in carrying on the strike should be heard to-morrow. John Jeffrey, who has been representing the miners at the recent convention at Denver, should arrive to-morrow with a full report from headquarters. The action of the men will no doubt be very much influenced by this.

Two representatives of the Lady-smith union arrived here to-day, and arranged with a couple of local storekeepers to supply all the strikers temporarily with groceries, etc. A subscription list, which has been most liberally contributed to, has been circulated amongst the business men in their aid during the past few days. Nothing has been heard from Mr. Dunsuir thus far.

Work of reconstructing the saw mills, which were destroyed by fire at Fiddicks Junction last Monday, is proceeding rapidly. As the machinery was undamaged, the management expect to resume operations in about ten days. The new shingle mill started up to-day, and will be running steadily for some time. The company is under contract to fill two large orders for foreign ports.

The Liberals of this city are showing signs of activity. W. Sloan returned from Vancouver last evening, where he had been attending a meeting of the executive. He was well pleased with the outlook for his party in the forthcoming fight. The campaign in this section will be in charge of Mr. Sloan with headquarters in Nanaimo. Asked if he intended becoming a candidate he replied no. He had been urged to do so by friends in several constituencies, but could not think of doing so, as his duties as organizer would require his whole attention.

Mr. Martin was just a trifle astray in some of his remarks Thursday. It is true that the coming fight will be the first in which party lines have been rigidly drawn. But the Liberal party through its representatives decided upon one occasion to give all the aid in its power to the party led by Mr. Semlin, and accomplished the overthrow of the Turner government. Owing to some untoward circumstances that verdict was nullified and the old elements triumphed. An offshoot of them has been in power ever since. Another branch of the family has managed to install itself and hopes to remain in office for four years more. The first duty of Liberals is to prevent any such untoward consummation—to forget the past and look forward to working out the political salvation of British Columbia.

Mr. Gilmour hopes a leading plank in the platform of the Liberal party will be the development of Vancouver Island. The idea is worthy of consideration. The richest mines in British Columbia are now known to be on the Island. And yet the greater part of that Island is a terra incognita. No one knows definitely what it contains, although the probabilities are that the regions underlying are richer than anything that has yet been revealed. It will pay the province as a whole to find out what the Island contains. It should not be a very costly undertaking if the work is gone about systematically and scientifically.

**THE NEW WOMAN.**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION FORMALLY CLOSED**

**Prorogation Took Place After Was Granted and Resolutions Bills Assented To**

(From Friday's Daily Express.)

The fourth session of the government of British Columbia, assembled on April 2nd, terminated, when His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor prorogued the assembly. The work of the House during this session has been most successful, and so effectively had everything been disposed of so that the Legislature is expected to close.

The whole parliament has had a great deal to do, and some of the most important incidents in the political history of the province have been included in its limits. It has witnessed the dissolution of an opposition party, the birth of a new party, the resignation of a Premier, and the dissolution of an opposition party after its leader had been elected to office. It has witnessed the first occasion on which the House has been prorogued in the middle of its third session, and has seen over a period of four months the longest in the history of British Columbia. It has witnessed the first occasion on which the House has been prorogued in the middle of its third session, and has seen over a period of four months the longest in the history of British Columbia. It has witnessed the first occasion on which the House has been prorogued in the middle of its third session, and has seen over a period of four months the longest in the history of British Columbia.

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Paris, June 6.—The colonial minister has received a dispatch from the Governor of Martinique announcing that Mount Pelee is again active. For some days the volcano has emitted flames and clouds of vapor.



Mrs. Emma Mitchell, 120 Louisiana street, Indianapolis, Ind., writes: "For the past five years I have rarely been without pain, but Peruna changed all that and in a very short time, I think I had taken only two bottles before I began to recuperate very quickly, and seven bottles made me well. I do not have headache or backache any more, and have some interest in life."

"The coming of what is known as the 'new woman' in our country is not greeted by everyone as it were a great blessing. But there is another new woman whom every body is glad to see. Every day some invalid woman is exclaiming, 'I have been made a new woman by Dr. Hartman's home treatment.' It is only necessary to send her name, address, symptoms, duration of sickness and treatment already received to Dr. Hartman, Columbus, Ohio, and directions for one month's treatment will be promptly forwarded.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of the Home Sanitarium, Columbus, O.

subject; also Matsqui. If you think it well, I shall be glad to assist you in any line of action conceived in the interest and for the advantage of the people at large.

HENRY T. THIRIFT,  
Ge. Sec.-Treas. Settlers' Assn. of B.C.

**THE ATLANTIC STEAMER SERVICE**

**TWO COMPANIES HAVE SUBMITTED TENDERS**

Ottawa, June 6.—Two tenders for the Atlantic steamship service were presented to parliament yesterday.

The Allan line offer to supply the service for a period of ten years from May 1st, 1905, for an annual subsidy of £300,000, payable half yearly, the routes to be as specified except that the company reserve the option of running 21-knot steamers to Halifax all the year round, instead of to Quebec in the summer.

The tender of the British North Atlantic Steam Navigation Company, which is headed by the Dominion Line, and signed J. G. Welding, chairman, offers to do the service for £200,000. In making this rate the company assumes that the Imperial and Canadian governments would pay the ordinary sea postage rate for the carriage of mails forwarded by the steamers, and also assume that they should have the assistance of the Canadian government in making arrangements with the railway.

Grand Trunk Pacific.

The government has had the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme up for consideration. Sir Wilfrid Laurier heard the views of his supporters, and the cabinet will now deal with the question of subsidy.

**AT SONG COMPETITION.**

**German Emperor and Empress Attend Contest at Frankfort.**

Frankfort-on-the-Main, June 5.—The Emperor and Empress, who are attending the singing competition here, were welcomed at the town hall yesterday by the municipal authorities, whom the Emperor thanked for their splendid reception. Referring to the survival of the old German custom of song competitions, the Emperor emphasized the necessity for old traditional travelling hand-in-hand with modern development. He complimented Frankfort on being at the forefront in social politics, in which he was keenly interested.

**GIGANTIC SCHEME.**

**Combine Proposed to Control Mining and Industrial Industries in South Africa.**

London, June 6.—The Capetown correspondent of the Daily Express learns that a gigantic combine of magnates, representing various interests, is projected with the object of controlling all the mining, industrial and commercial interests in South Africa.

**PELEE AGAIN ACTIVE.**

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION FORMALLY CLOSED**

**Prorogation Took Place After Was Granted and Resolutions Bills Assented To**

(From Friday's Daily Express.)

The fourth session of the government of British Columbia, assembled on April 2nd, terminated, when His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor prorogued the assembly. The work of the House during this session has been most successful, and so effectively had everything been disposed of so that the Legislature is expected to close.

The whole parliament has had a great deal to do, and some of the most important incidents in the political history of the province have been included in its limits. It has witnessed the dissolution of an opposition party, the birth of a new party, the resignation of a Premier, and the dissolution of an opposition party after its leader had been elected to office. It has witnessed the first occasion on which the House has been prorogued in the middle of its third session, and has seen over a period of four months the longest in the history of British Columbia. It has witnessed the first occasion on which the House has been prorogued in the middle of its third session, and has seen over a period of four months the longest in the history of British Columbia.

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**FOR GOVERNMENT ROAD.**

**Settlers' Association Writes Board of Trade Regarding the Coast-Kootenay Railway.**

At yesterday's meeting of the board of trade council the secretary was instructed to write for further information regarding the following communication which the executives of space prevented from being published in these columns yesterday afternoon:

L. G. McQuade, Esq., President Board of Trade, Victoria, B. C.:

Dear Sir.—Having taken a deep interest in the development of the resources of our country, and the municipality of the Fraser valley, I submit this as a good and sufficient reason for trespassing on your time and attention at this juncture. I wish to direct the attention of your honorable board to the route as surveyed for what is undoubtedly a fine coast route at Okeoverdale, and that distance nearer the Fraser river bridge and Vancouver. The line if constructed on surveyed route will not be in the interest of the city of Victoria or of the municipality of the valley, but, as I conceive, solely in the interest of the company, of which the local manager or president is also proposing officer. I cannot but believe that such action is detrimental to the city's as also the country's interests. Although by some of the sagacious and bold spirits who at present have control, we are looked upon as of small moment, I have a very vivid recollection of the manner in which this same case valued themselves of the efforts of the Settlers' Association to secure and persistently seconded by the Victoria Board of Trade, in securing the assurance for the construction of the Fraser river bridge as a governmental work, undertaken for and on behalf of the country. You will doubtless remember our petition, also requested the construction of the Coast-Kootenay railway should be undertaken, and the construction on the same basis. Had this been done, we would not have the selfish discrimination now so apparent. The time is most opportune to insist the line shall be constructed and owned by the government, and it be operated by whom it may, and with the assistance of the agricultural and rural population of the valley and the influence of Victoria, the injustice mentioned will be removed, we will get the direct route through the gorton of the valley at present remote and but little developed, in which there are several fine tracts of timber. The lands are all patented, and with the advent of a direct