

**The Premier's First Address in
That District After Accept-
ing Candidature.**

A Comprehensive Statement of the Government's Policy During Recent Years.

**Opposition's New Standard Bearer
Also Heard and Replied to by
Mr. Turner.**

Abbotsford, June 18.—(Special.)—Al

though the notice of the gathering has been necessarily brief and the facilities for reaching the hall were not of the best, there was nevertheless a gratifyingly large attendance at the political meeting held here last evening. The speakers were the rival candidates for the representation of the district. Premier Turner and Mr. Charles Munro, the latter having been elected, were the first to address the government supporters to participate and being also granted cordial permission to reply to Hon. Mr. Turner's answering address. Mr. Downs was unanimously chosen as chairman, filling the office with dignity and grace. It was also the fact that the ladies of the district are this year interesting themselves in the cause of the oppressed, and this was by the presence of several representatives of the sex, Mrs. Bouchier, Mrs. and Misses Bais, among the number. In the audience Messrs. Thomas, William and Alfred Blair, Morrisey, D. McGillivray, Higgins, Macdonald, Bouchier, Frank, Macdonald, LaCroix, Mahoney, Trimen, Lehman, Snell and Prefontaine, James Mercer, W. J. Foot and George Marshall, Donald McGillivray and Horatio Webb. The room had not been so decorously and especially for the occasion, but the emblems and mottoes of the societies using it for a meeting place adorned the walls with singular appropriateness. A set of mottoes, in the lines of "Friendship, Love and Truth," may be regarded as something novel in the annals of the political arena. It is to be regretted that the opportunity of meeting were afforded no evidence that such a contest is impossible—while of course every politician is ready to extend his hand to a friend and to hope for a reasonable measure of Charity.

Mr. Downs having thanked the meeting for the honor which it had conferred upon him, and Premier and Mr. Munro, having been invited to the platform, the former was immediately called upon. His speech was a most judicious and moderate one, and he then settled itself for a careful consideration of everything that honorable gentleman had for the first time.

The Premier then expressed the pleasure he felt at meeting the electors in Abbotsford the electors of the district, and of addressing them briefly upon the topics which had been suggested. He then alluded to the way of his preparing as he would have chosen for the meeting—in fact he had had little or no time to prepare, and he was glad to be there, therefore ask the indulgence of the meeting. He acknowledged with satisfaction also the meeting here for the first time.

Mr. Munro, who as a much younger man, and an experienced and practiced public speaker, had somewhat the best of the time, then came forward, and Premier, he might be said to have entered upon politics late in life, for although he had always felt a lively interest in the subject, he had not been a politician, should, it was not until about 12 years ago that his political career proper might be said to have commenced. Prior to this time he had been an assessor, a police business man of the province in fact, and had given his attention and time to business. When at the solicitation of his friends he had been elected to the public affairs as their representative in the legislature, it was with no thought of continuing in the harness—he had a brief period and then retiring again to commercial life. Much to his own surprise he had been invited by the late Premier to be a candidate for the district, and while doubtful at the time if his partners in England would consent, had been enabled to accept, and had remained in the country ever since that time. It would be seen from this outline of his career that he was not, nor did he wish to be, a plain man of business. And as a matter of fact he had about come to the conclusion that what the country needed was more agriculture and more business. (Applause.)

Numerous attacks had been made of late upon himself and the government, and these were being made by the "English" side, while pointing out the absolute impossibility of conducting any government without making opponents. The opponents were, however, accumulating faster perhaps than through the filling of appointments in the civil service, for the opposition numbered in such cases as they had and would do so long as he was at the head of affairs—all all the opposition was made up of. He had regard only to fitness, and where other conditions were favorable he giving the preference to those who were assistants. He was not at all of the country. No more senseless cry had ever been raised by the opposition than that of the ranks of the civil service. The ranks are being constantly recruited from among the "English" duces. Personally he certainly did not place himself below an English duce, although he was proud to say he was an Englishman, and equally proud to claim Canada as his country. The persistent cry of the opposition with regard to the "duces" in the civil service had led him not to give himself any trouble with a test. "English knickerbockers" had been the cry, and so without saying a word to anyone he had taken the trouble to get the staff and had them photographed, afterwards obtaining a memorandum of the history of the civil service. He was not at all of the opinion that there was only one of the staff attired in the knickerbockers—and he was a Canadian—and one of the staff attired in the English dress. (Laughter.) He mentioned the matter incidentally merely, as showing how utterly senseless was the opposition.

This, however, was a very minor cry—the great complaint was that the country was being ruined by the extravagance of the government—that its credit was being impaired and its people burdened with taxation beyond the power of the country to sustain. This was indeed a very old cry, a cry the opposition had always been sending up, although the years going by failed to prove them

Mr. J. C. Brown through the cry of
 as long ago as the last general elections
 had been pitched in precisely the same
 to-day—a general prediction of blue
 that the country was going down-down.
 It was true that the year previous to Mr.
 Brown so speaking, in 1884, the revenue
 distinct and natural cause, which Mr.
 Brown did not stop to explain to the
 public in his contrasting of figures. He
 stop to explain, and he showed that
 in honour that the decline was the
 result of the rearrangement of the land
 laws, the year before having seen a bill
 become law prohibiting the sale of pub-
 lishers having theretofore been a very
 material contributor to the revenue of
 the province. The legislation in ques-
 tion was not a mere change of the
 natural, and in fact unavoidable, effect
 of reducing the revenue, the receipts
 from land sales falling from \$213,000
 1891-2 to \$63,000 in the following
 years, or from \$200,000 to \$200,000
 shown, chargeable to the change in the
 land laws, and yet no honest man would
 think of classing this as a decline of
 the revenue. The revenue had been
 shown by the opposition speakers at the
 last general elections. On the contrary
 the revenue proper had grown steadily,
 and was continually mounting up from
 \$821,000 in 1884 to \$1,200,000 in 1890,
 or nearly 100 per cent; or if we go back
 ten years to 1880, in which year it was
 but \$608,000, the increase is about 130
 per cent. The revenue was not spasmodic or fluctuat-
 ing, but steady and continuous, keeping
 pace with the arising out of the natural
 growth of the country, and the growth
 and its industries. Applause.

Another favorite statement of the opposition was that the expenditures made for the election had not been wisely or necessarily, but were for the purpose of catching votes, and that the expenditure was every year in excess of the revenue. For a contradiction of this was not needed, nor was it necessary to call counts where everything was plainly and systematically set forth. At first glance it appeared that the aim of the opponents of the government was to found, but the deceit would be noted as soon as one investigated. To secure the development of a great country, the country with its infinite almost of resources, money had to be liberally invested. Realizing this the policy of the government was to encourage the people of whether the future of the country was to be trusted—had British Columbians sufficient faith in their country to risk their money in the purchase of land as a business investment, and was the credit of the country sufficient to sustain the call upon it. For answer he had to refer to the past—Kootenay in the past—in Kootenay for example the policy of the government had been progressive—to borrow money in sufficient quantities to develop the country, and thereby encouraging settlement and making development possible, with an immediate return to the country in increased production. He pointed out that to the last general elections the government saw the necessities of Kootenay, and took action to meet them and so secure the future of the country. He said that of that great district the cry had gone up from the rank and file of the opposition that the contemplated expenditures

Government secure a fresh lease of power. It had been an object, the government would still have been justified in going forward with the scheme. The tide had reached its flood in the affairs of the province; it was taken and the country was going on to recovery. The revenue was being recovered in the country went ahead; both were secured by its opening up; and soon saw the wisdom of this course abundantly proved. In the expenditure of the Government, no effort had been made to secure a fair distribution among the districts, although it should not be forgotten that special requirements of some districts, and even of some district, and it was for the advantage of the whole province to on such occasions promote the prosperity of such districts, and that the Government could not be held accountable towards their borders. For example, Kootenay was strong in her revenue nor population when the Government took over the management of the territory, the construction of roads, railways, etc., for the opening up of its resources. At this time when the other parts of the Province were suffering from depression, Kootenay to contribute for the opening up of Kootenay, its revenue contributing to the province was only about \$30,000, which usually sufficed for the result of the expenditures made for necessary and desirable public works began to benefit, the revenue from Kootenay went up with a bound, and the result was proportionately in equally wonderful proportion. Kootenay was a bright example of the necessity of fostering development by the opening up of the country. Now the different sections of the province must give and take for the general good, the end and aim for the government must be for the benefit of the whole province. (Applause.)

With regard to the alleged over-expenditure of the government, it was very erroneous to suppose that a large amount of money had been expended to flourish with dependence only upon the ordinary revenue. As a matter of fact it could be shown that the government had been obliged by the soundest business principles to borrow money for public works. It was not on the other hand true that the government had been obliged to public works had been resorted to by the government to meet ordinary maintenance costs. On the contrary, the government had had a general cost of government and left a considerable balance to turn into the permanent public works account. The balance of the permanent account in 1891 and the 30th June of the present year, when the accounts would be closed, showed that \$4,260,000 had been expended on roads, bridges, etc., with about 12,000 paid out in connection with railway subsidies, or a total of \$1,398,371 net had been received from loans account, so that in reality about one million dollars had been expended above the consolidated loans of the period. This surely was a proof of the good government of the country, and not only to meet all ordinary expenses out of current revenue, but pay out an additional million dollars, on permanent public works.

While regretting that it was not possible usually to make figures interesting to the finance minister, the speaker said that the position of the provincial credit, urging the most careful inquiry into this most important, and, in fact, the most delicate, question, was a fact that prior to 1891, before the first loan under the new system was raised, the province had not been able to obtain any loans. True, there had been three loans floated, at 7 per cent, 6 per cent, and 5 per cent, respectively, but the public loans for the improvement of the roads and the bonds authorized by the act of the legislature were simply sold to the banks or to the provinces, and the money was taken up without their being advertised at all in the open market. At this time he had realized that a new system had been devised for the improvement of the provincial credit, and he

had—knowing something of such matters—gone to work to get British Columbia securities listed on the London market on the basis and in the form of the London market of the United Kingdom and Great Britain for all her colonies. Many difficulties had presented themselves, it being a brave thing for a man to offer itself to the financial world on the same terms as the Dominion of which it was a part. Many people had spoken of the "inscribed stock" as a thing of the British Columbia securities. Sir Charles Tupper, who then acted as high commissioner for Canada, declaring that the world to present such a thing as a 3 per cent. loan, this being all that Canada could secure. Despite the many difficulties, the government had persisted in their endeavors authorized under the inscribed stock act, and had ultimately had the satisfaction of having raised the loan of £860,000 for every \$100 and paying only 3 per cent. for the money. Even this it could be seen was a great gain, 3 per cent. on the \$100, whereas 4½ per cent. on the \$100, whereas 4½ per cent. had been the best possible rate obtained before. The loan of 1891, to the sum of £850,000, or the half, while the next loan offered by the province to the London market, and the one calculated to really test the market, was £850,000 in 1893, brought \$91 for the \$100, the money cost being now just under 3½ per cent. Then the last loan showed still further advance, the money cost being 3½ per cent. and the result was that the actual cash received by the treasury after deducting all expenses cost 3-1-10 per cent. for interest. The loan of 1895, which is called daily on the London market, and listed at 102, in limited quantities of course. One hundred could be got at any time, and the government was in a position to get what money it requires. This steady and satisfactory advance in the credit of the province in the great London market, and the fact that the credit of the world was indisputable evidence that the financiers of the world, keeping their eyes on the management of British Columbia, had been satisfied of the business principles adopted by the government, and were prepared to back with their capital their own opinion of the province. The test was as crucial a one as could well be imagined, for these money kings would not allow sentiment at any time to enter into their calculations. The test was advanced, as they had, the credit of the province, the position of its finances and the development of its resources. It was a point that had not yet been touched upon was with regard to the utilization of the sinking fund which every half year the province of England to be invested for

the taking up of the loans at their maturity. Of course this money was not to be used for the purpose of the loan, but the trustees made it a rule to invest this money in the other securities of the province offering on the market, so that in this method the province was paying off in reality about \$95,000 of its debt every year. This surely was additional testimony to the economy and the policy of the government of the day. The government and which had brought the finances of the country to their present highly satisfactory condition.

Ranking at the present time as the highest of the British colonies with the exception of Canada, British Columbia was to-day in a very different position from that occupied a few years ago. It was no longer a territory to go ahead, and borrow such sums as might be needed for the making of productive and permanent public works by the government, but a province where the provincial industries might be continued along the lines already proved and endorsed by the keenest business men of the country. The economic conditions of the present time justified their direct advance for the development of the province, and consequently large expenditures on public works had to be made, as the estimate showed. The time was ripe for action in the country's behalf, the necessities of the day demanding energetic action, and credit was available, as far as possible. By the legislation of last session, the government had been authorized to borrow in all a sum of five million dollars, and the money was at once placed at the disposal of the government, and was continually drawn upon by the opposition speakers. It should not be imagined for a moment, however, that it had ever been intended to use the money for anything but all this sum at the present. It could not be done indeed. Much of the loan was contemplated to be applied to the fostering of the industries of the province at a rate of \$4,000 a mile, and the assistance of this character could not be granted until the railways had actually been built, the money being repaid by the government not being payable until after completion of the roads. Thus if the railways were secured and the development of the sections traversed made certain, the money would be repaid, and the promised aid when through the construc-

of the roads the revenue earning capacity of the province had increased, and the highways were now more accessible, which, without railways, were of no use or value to anyone. A considerable portion of this \$5,000,000 loan had been expended in the construction of the Teslin Lake road to the Yukon gold fields; a second portion was intended for the Victoria, Vancouver & Nanaimo, and the Victoria, Comox and Kootenays, whose construction meant as much directly to the farmers of the Fraser valley, opening up a direct and highly profitable home market for the products of the farms. Still another part of the loan authorized was for what was generally known as the Bute Inlet section of the British Columbia coast and which was to be graded to suit a line of traffic looked to the British Columbia province would be of great benefit and which would unquestionably prove beneficial. Everyone would remember how on the completion of the Bute Inlet section of the Pacific looked to the carrying through of the British Pacific project for the salvation of the country, the prospect being at the time that the completion of the line would be successful in carrying it through to construction. The negotiations had not progressed as anticipated, and after a year or more had elapsed it was seen it was well to sanction the payment of the \$260,000 per annum required to secure construction, and he himself had agreed to face the cost of the interest on the loan. The fact that the government had since been admitted to have been sound, however, was not sufficient to quiet the loudest in complaint of the government's decision were now prepared to admit that it had been in the best interests of the province. These facts, however, were not now as showing that much of the new loan was not contemplated to be drawn upon or expended at present, while the enterprise was in progress, but that the opening up and development of the province, so that its prosperity might be substantially augmented. Besides the railways, the government was now providing of upwards of a million dollars on surveys, roads, bridges, etc., remunerative public works that experience and foresight would have predicted the opening up and prosperity of the province. Here the Kootenay object lesson should never be lost sight of, the

same policy of liberal expenditure having transformed a comparatively unknown and inaccessible districts into a rich, populous and prosperous section of the province, and in a very short space of time bringing up its revenue contribution to the province from \$30,000 a year to more than \$230,000.

This wonderful development of Kootenay had been in a great measure assisted Naksup & Slokan road, on which the contractors had actually lost money although the province had been assured that the road would be paid for. The province had made a poor bargain, and the road could have been built for \$6,000 a mile. The road was a fine specimen of a system through the land grant system, a system which he did not defend, but which in the case of the points of view presented to him was the best for the province. Up to the 30th of June the Naksup & Slokan line had not cost the province anything, on account of the fact that the province, in the transaction, taken with the 40 per cent of the gross earnings of the road which came back to the province, had actually made a profit. The province was growing by leaps and bounds, consequently upon the development of the tributary mines, was apparent that the province had actually gained. The province had grown in a few years from \$6,000 to \$18,000, with every indication of a yet more appreciable advance. The speaker was concerned that there was certainly a good investment for British Columbia. The Shuswap & Okanagan lines, which had been built, were doing quite so well financially that he was quite so well financially that he was the means of settling up one of the best agricultural sections of the entire province. He had not had time to say so, and when it had been connected with the Kootenays by means of the Penticton line would be a great improvement. The speaker was concerned that the province had materials for the construction of this new line would go up over the S. & O. in a few days, and the contemplated construction of the new line would be a paying line in question into one of the best paying lines in the country. (Applause.) As to the cost to the province of the construction of the Okanagan line, the speaker lost sight of that its revenue to the province had been materially reduced by the insistence of the government for the settlement of the land and the benefit of the settlers and thus indirectly returned an even better profit to the province than the government. These roads was not and could not be expected to be, in revenue return direct to the province but in the settling up of the province, the province was going to market of its great resources, both mineral and agricultural. No one could doubt the wisdom of the building of the line, and the speaker was going through the country traversed and viewing its magnificent farms, with its fine water-powered saw mills, one of the most co-ordinated communities of a successful an enterprise any in the

country. (Applause.)

It is true that the world had done more for railway to promote its development than had British Columbia, in proof of which he enumerated the roads making for the coast already built or building, and included the railway to the north. Now a total of 1,100 miles more had been provided for, giving British Columbia 1,630 miles of railway in all. He said that the Government was following the present government.

Having thus demonstrated the practical results of the policy of the past, the premier declared that it was the present policy of the Government to encourage the development of the country by the same energetic system of promoting productive public works. In their argument against the railway, the court and speakers and writers had a very clever trick of pointing to the public accounts, and saying that here it would be seen that the Government was spending hundreds of thousands yearly in excess of the revenue of the country. A first glance at the accounts might not disclose the fact that the public works of magnitude were undertaken their cost went down with a less sum as revenue on the other side. But this was not the case. The public works were being followed by the government, or that the country was approaching bankruptcy as claimed by so many of the speakers, and the premier asked them if a business man found that by borrowing a sum of money he could greatly improve the revenue earning capacity of his business, and that he was enabled him to borrow the required sum at a low rate of interest, would anyone dispute his wisdom in making the loan and increasing the profits in his business? Of course the investment would be a year or so would show unfavorably in his books while at the same time it would be the wisest and safest investment he could possibly have made. In answer another argument of the opposition having negotiated the loan could the business men of any sense lose the loan up in the first year and debit it and have the item appear as a vest in his books? The principle was the same whether applied to the business of the individual or the Government when inquired into, the arguments of the opposition in this regard became the veriest nonsense that a sane man could

To turn now to the critics of the government who had most recently been elected to the electors, he noticed in the Times a notice of the candidature of the opposition candidate in New Westminster city, delivered an interesting address to the electors last Saturday and in which the speaker gave a very good financial condition of the province resulting from the Turner government's manipulations. The Columbian truly reproduced this address, and he had already studied this capital synopsis of the Turner government's financial folly, and to aid in that good work we reproduce the following table, which followed a tabulated series of inaccuracies.

First of all Mr. Brown placed the present cost of debt and guarantees at \$336,000 a year. Mr. Brown was never a good accountant as figures, and here it was not only evident, but also true.

As an actual fact the present cost of the debt was \$298,816 and the guarantee in all \$36,498 or a total of \$335,274. In this, however, he was right.

Next he placed the paying off of the debt, \$96,382 per annum, so that in reality the New Westminster critic was right. The actual figure was \$96,382 when he counted as the cost of the debt in truth included its payment or reduction by nearly \$100,000 a year, and also \$200,000 a year for the cost of the general assisted railways in the province.

Again Mr. Brown asserted that the "proposed addition to the debt charges" would be \$225,000 a year. This presumably means the proposed borrowing of the five millions provided for by the loan act of last session, and Mr. Brown was not as far off as usual—but only \$200,000. Still, it was very close for Mr. Brown. (Laughter.)

"The average over-expenditure for the last five years," said Mr. Brown, "was \$645,000 a year." This would amount to \$12,900,000 for the last five years, which he is referring, and as pointed out was in reality the proceeds of the loan applied to the construction of desirable pub-

lic works. One of these loans Mr. Brown had actually voted for in the house, and it would be interesting to know what he thought the government should do with the money after obtaining it, if they were not to apply it to the purposes for which it had been voted by the house? Were they to lock it up in

The salary? (Laughter.) The statement by Mr. Brown that the estimated rate of increase of revenue was \$35,000 a year. Now in 1897 the revenue was steadily going down, yet in that year it was \$789,576 while to the 30th June, 1898, it was \$750,000; so that there had been a decrease of \$501,438 in the four years, of \$125,250 per annum. This was but another illustration of the Board's divergence from the facts when discussing matters of finance.

Thirty-eight thousand dollars was quoted by Mr. Brown as the estimated amount which would have to be raised under consideration. What were the facts? The salary roll to the 30th June 1898 amounted to £122,800, or about 30th June of the present year they are approximately the same, there being a difference of but £10,000, the inclusion of salaries paid to members of the civil government. Under the heading of the administration of justice it was difficult to control the salary list in other departments where the salaries were entirely dissimilar. New districts were continually being opened up, and as soon as any population was attracted to a new district the necessity arose of raising the salary scale, the revenue derivable from it, the necessity arising for the presence of a constable. The rapid growth of the Kowangay and far northern mining sections had necessitated heavy calls upon the department of police and yet including the administrative staff the total expenditure in 1897 had been \$279,498, while in 1894 it had been \$287,200—an increase of over \$9,298 actually—and a very different result if you take account of the fact that in fact only \$2,324 a year. If it would please Mr. Brown to go back a little further he might take a salary list at the end of 1894 of £112,800, and contrast it with the salary list of the year ending the 30th of the present month, showing an increase of £122,800—£690 for the ten years, an average of \$12,690 per year, while in the same period the revenue had grown from \$684,655 to \$789,576, an average annual increase of \$945 or an average annually of \$69,154. (Applause.) Here was another statement apparently made without any regard to truth and veracity, and without receiving the electors and getting the "Party" in at all costs, without respect to truth, the character of the officials, and the public accounts. All that was aimed at was success for the opposition at the polls, by whatever means available.

from confederation to 1891," said Mr. Brown. "was under \$100,000 a year." The Premier continued to get here the student grasped the significance of the words, gentlemen, "service to get at." There was at the time of confederation an actual debt of about a million and a half, \$1,478,000, and that was the debt of the Dominion, so that the province started clear of liability. The net debt now was \$5,141,682, so that the increase in the Dominion debt was \$3,663,582, or an average increase annually of about \$135,688. At confederation the debt per capita of white population was \$1.25, and now it is \$1.25. The debt has now been reduced to 39 or even less. At the same time it should not be for a moment forgotten that in adding to the debt for the Dominion, the Dominion government had placed no burden upon the country that its necessities and its credit did not justify, while Mr. Brown's statement that the Dominion government could be accurately gauged by the fact that during the last campaign he had made bold to assert that the revenue of the Dominion was sufficient to carry that the country under the Turner government would in a short time be bankrupt. The expanded revenue and the sound management of the Dominion government eloquently proclaimed his error.

Mr. Brown had referred to the model province of Ontario as fortunately free from debt, but he had not pointed out that the Dominion government had not only everything was done by the municipal governments, and as a fact the population of two millions had a debt upon them of \$1,478,000, and that was the rule alone. In British Columbia it would be found that the four cities of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo had a debt of \$1,478,000, that of the entire province, yet these cities did not exhibit any fears of impending bankruptcy, nor had they to show for their debts the same results as the cities of the Dominion, and the province. Apart from what were generally styled public works, consisting of roads, streets, trails, bridges, and the like, there had been made or other public works not usually classed as such, but equally necessary to the development of the province, such as schools, hospitals, and the like, and that was the present day, when people do not go into

country without first ascertaining if it possesses the necessities of civilization for the people to whom it is to be given. It was now almost as essential in the eyes of prospective settlers that there should be schools available for their children as that there should be land giving access to their new homes, and desirable immigration could not be induced unless educational opportunities were afforded. The Premier had understood the value of the convenience of civilization and was doing his best to provide them. Another public work not generally taken into consideration by the Premier was the question which the Premier traced all that had been accomplished in this now important department in which he takes so special and practical an interest. He was not satisfied with the office—or at all events made it more than a name that had no meaning save as a supplementary title for the minister. He was anxious to see the means for the fostering and development of the agricultural industry were outlined briefly, and passing next to the question of the railway, he asked whether it had been accomplished by legislation and departmental work in this direction. The building of the new Teslin Lake railway to the Yukon delta was a project of the greatest and very valuable market to the products of the farms of British Columbia—indeed the creation of the northern trade had almost entirely depended on the railway. The Premier's influence and he was at the same time happy to announce that arrangements had now been completed for the immediate construction of the new Teslin Lake, the short section from the river to be taken in had at once, giving a good wagon road to the summit, and relieving the trail, while beyond, until the road can be got in shape, the trail is to be put in the very best of shape and the prospectors may not be needlessly delayed or in any way inconvenienced. The trail would be widened and made a good wagon road later. As the construction was well under way, and might also be expected to result favorably at an early date, the present negotiations were not to be considered. The Premier ascertained what the Dominion government proposed to do, as they certainly should assist. (Applause.) The rail-

way would come in time, but in the meanwhile the main road would be closed as far as possible to relieve the present congestion on the route. As to the Penticton line, the plant and material would go from Vancouver to Penticton by rail, his wife would visit the district in which he was speaking would see the surveyors at work pre-paring the line, and then return to Victoria, Vancouver and Eastern road at all events that section of it between Chilliwack and Abbotsford. (Applause.) "I am sure that the railway men in the capital longer than he has been here," he said, "and that they will be interested, the negotiations with the railway people having kept the members of the board of directors here in the city lately, and having only been completed on the night of his departure from home.

Shortage of time prevented his taking up the subject of the attacks which had been made upon him personally during recent months. Perhaps the people of Abbotsford did not care to hear of the attacks upon him, or, in any event they would have to wait for a more favorable opportunity. He did not intend that this should be the last time he would appear in the present, whom he thanked for the cordial and kindly hearing accorded him.

THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATE.
The Premier, having resumed his seat

amidst generous applause, Mr. Munro, the opposition candidate, was called for. He rose and said that he was surprised upon the fact the people of Abbotstford were members of the community regarding whom he knew nothing but the fact that they were not opposed to the opposition cause. The presence was indeed the first opportunity he had of visiting them and becoming acquainted with the impression that he had received. He declared that friends of the government had always told him the people of Abbotstford were a law-abiding, thrifty and honest, because forthright people; they saw it to oppose the wise administration of affairs by this great and good government. He said that when they prepared to meet an entirely different class of people, altogether, and without any intention of flattering he would say that they had not met a more intelligent, upright, thrifty or hospitable community—a people whom it would be an honor for anyone to represent. He did not propose to go into details of the reasons he urged first upon the electors of Chilliwack the advantage, justice and rationalness of having a home man to represent them in the House of Commons, but he would make a contra argument that there was no home man capable of representing the district, he would brand this as an insult to the intelligence of the people, and an injury to the sons of the farmers, to whom the opportunity of becoming the representative of the district in the House of Commons was the only chance of being

outside of the district for a representative he held to be wrong in principle, no matter how worthy the man sought to be introduced. He believed it would be better represented by a home man than it could be by a non-resident. He had seen in the *Chinook* the names of those who were in the district. He asked Mr. Turner, in which it was pointed out that while the district had always been fairly treated by the government, even in the matter of the house, it might expect greater favors if it returned the Premier as its member. This suggestion he maintained was an admission of political immorality. Either the first statement of the Progress party were true or a scandalous state of affairs existed, and he would stand up for the rights of duty and be fair to all districts in the making of appropriations or the government was unworthy of the confidence of the people. It was much easier to find fault with the government than to formulate a policy, but there were a few grievances of long standing which he thought he would express themselves decidedly, and one of these was the so-called redistribution legislation of last session. This he held to be no improvement at all. He thought it was a mistake in the direction of urging that Esquimalt district with its limited population should have been promptly cut off with one member, and representation based on the basis of population alone. As to the civil service, he agreed with the Premier that a man was a man whatever his nationality, but informed that he had talked with a certain man from Victoria, and a firm supporter of the government, too, who had pronounced the sole purpose of the civil service was to provide the capital to be providing soft billets for the knickerbocker dudes. As great events sometimes cast their shadows before he heard of them, he had been told that Mr. Turner had had the photograph taken of the office clerks had for the important occasion left their knickerbockers at home. He thought that the people would demand an explanation in regard to it. It was very well to talk about it, but he thought it was better to remove, and to deny that it involved double taxation. The poor farmers were being taxed twice over. The law, as it stood, was double taxation. The law, as it stood, was double taxation.

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CHILLI

(Continued)

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FISHING

Mr. S. A. Spence Bay had a pack on Saturday last the Skeena on to begin on the N. on the first of the news brought steamer Barbours. Some fishing has ried on the proper did not s. The first day's on successful, the boat the tide. The and the prospect sockeyes were good. The Boat large amount of men at the the Princess Lou on Saturday heavily for the leaving for Skagway evening had prime and carried a force of Chinese.

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