# PRIOR SUCCEEDS TO PREMIERSHIP

## He Was Sworn in as First Minister of British Columbia Last Night—Personnel of His Cabinet.

(From Saturday's Daily.)

As forecasted in the Times last night, Hon. James Dunsmuir has resigned his position as first minister and has been succeeded in that position by his minister of mines, Col. Prior. The rivalry between Messrs. Prior and Eberts has resulted in favor of the former, who today is seated in the saddle, and is busily completing his cabinet. The new premier was busy at his office this morning acknowledging congratulations from different parts of the country, and empowering his friends to drink his health. A Union Jack floated over his place of business. There was none at Mr. Eberts's residence.

During the past week and a half Mr. Dunsmuir has been inclined to Colonel Prior, and showed his preference in making his recommendation to the Governor. Colonel Prior's rival, Mr. Eberts, was not aware that his chief had resigned until the Times was on the street with the announcement. Colonel Prior was sworn in as premier and minister of mines at 6:30 o'clock last evening.

The resignation of Mr. Dunsmuir was handed in to Sir Joly de Lotbiniere early yesterday forenoon, but the fact was kept very secret, and when it was published last evening was received almost with incredulity. The premier kept his pledge to Hon. Mr. Wells absolutely, namely, that he would retain office until his return. Hon. Mr. Wells returned on Thursday, and although he did not come on to the capital the same day, he was in the province, and Mr. Dunsmuir was relieved of his obligation.

After Hon. Mr. Dunsmuir's interview with the Governor yesterday forenoon, in which he recommended the minister of mines as his successor, Col. Prior was sent for and was entrusted by His Honor with the task of forming a government. This he undertook to do, and at the hour mentioned in the evening formally took over the reins of office.

HON. E. G. PRIOR,
Premier and Minister of Mines.

Hon. J. D. Prentice, finance minister and acting provincial secretary, was sworn in to the former position at the same time, and the only thing which prevented Premier Prior from adding to the list a chief commissioner of lands and works was the fact that the Charmer had not arrived, bearing Hon. W. C. Wells. Mr. Wells took his oath of office under his new chief in the Governor's apartments at 11 o'clock this morning.

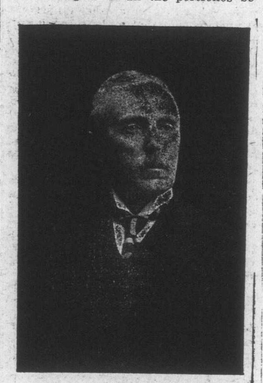
The attitude of the attorney-general to the ministry is not yet defined. It is a fact that his portfolio is open for him in the reconstructed cabinet if he so desires. He did not avail himself of that offer yesterday, and he may decide to retire from the ministry. Those who best understand the situation, however, believe that when his natural disappointment has worn off he will give his support to a cabinet which will consist practically of those he has worked with for more than one session.

The vacancy of provincial secretary will be filled without delay, and possibly by Denis Murphy, of Yale. Mr. Murphy arrived in the city on last night's boat with Mr. Wells, and was met at the wharf by Mr. Prentice, with whom he went home to dinner. It is felt that his accession to the cabinet would be a source of strength, and his relations with the opposition of last session towards the close were not of the most cordial character. His ties with that body are not now sufficiently strong to stand in the way of his joining the administration. His seat could be opened, too, with little risk, and his platform ability would be of great service to the Prior government, especially if they lost Mr. Eberts, who is the only good stump speaker in the ministry. Should Mr. Eberts retire, too, Mr. Murphy might take his portfolio. Mr. McInnes's name is also associated with the post of attorney-general.

The presidency of the council will likely be taken by H. Dallas Helmcken, who has played no small part in the negotiations which have resulted in Col. Prior's selection.

### Premier's Policy Outlined.

Last night, after being sworn in, the new premier informed the Times that although he had not had time to draft a programme, or policy, his government would be a strictly non-partizan one, and not on party lines as his attitude at the Revelstoke convention, and on other occasions of late, might lead the public to suppose. His intention to form his government on non-party lines was at once indicated by his invitation to Mr. Wells, a Liberal, to join him. With Mr. Dunsmuir's resignation all the portfolios became vacant, and it was necessary for the new premier to extend an invitation to all of his old colleagues whom he desired to associate with himself in the reorganized cabinet.



HON. W. C. WELLS,
Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works

A good deal of speculation was indulged in as to whether that invitation would extend to Mr. Eberts. It was well known that in the event of Mr. Eberts being chosen, he had decided on the political decapitation of several ministers, and Col. Prior was among the number. However, he has been asked to retain his portfolio by Col. Prior, but up to noon to-day had not indicated what he would do.

"I have asked Mr. Eberts to become attorney-general in my ministry," Col. Prior said this morning when questioned by the Times regarding the matter, "but he has not yet accepted or indicated whether he will do so or not."

The attorney-general has always shown a strong disinclination to part himself from the emoluments of office, and he may live up to his record on this occasion, although the pill is naturally a bitter one for him to take.

When questioned this morning regarding the filling of the post of provincial secretary, which has been vacant so long, Col. Prior stated that he would complete his cabinet within the next few days. Who would take the provincial secretaryship he was unable to say. He could not state whether Mr. Murphy would be the man or not, but it would likely be a Mainland man.

There is still the presidency of the council to fill, and it is likely this will be H. Dallas Helmcken, K.C. There being no salary attached to the position, whoever accepts it will not require to return to his constituency for re-election. This precedent was established during the Semlin regime, when the question was raised with regard to Dr. McKechnie.

Mr. Dunsmuir has resigned the presidency of the council, although he will retain his seat in the House.

With regard to his general policy, Col. Prior will make the Canada Northern one of his strong planks. Speaking today of his attitude to this road he said:

"My policy first is to open up the country by railways, and the Canada Northern railway is one scheme which I consider is for the best interests of British Columbia as a whole. I will continue to push it, as I am, and have always been, a firm believer in it."

As to his prospects of being able to command a sufficient majority in the House, Col. Prior stated that he had assured himself of that fact before he undertook the task of forming a ministry, entrusted to him by His Honor. He would have a good working majority with which to meet the House.

On one other point the new Premier expressed himself definitely. He broke the joyful news that the district of North Victoria so long disfranchised, and denied representation in the legislature, will be remembered at once. That seat will be opened without delay, possibly about the same time as the provincial secretary seeks re-election.

Reverting again to the Canada Northern proposal, the Premier said he had no doubts on the matter. It would be built through to the coast, and he believed absolutely in the promise of the contractors to construct their line to Victoria, making this city the terminus of the line and transhipping trans-Pacific freight at the ocean docks here.

It is believed that the resignation of Mr. Dunsmuir, coming on the heels of a trip made by him and Dan. Mann over the E. & N., indicates that Mackenzie & Mann are going to purchase the Island road, and that Mr. Dunsmuir wished to be out of office before consummating the deal, thus avoiding the charges which led up to the Curtis commission of last year.

Chas. Wilson, the Conservative leader, came over on the Charmer last night, and he said things around the hotel corridors which will not be reproduced here. He and Mr. Eberts have thoughts too deep for words.

The Times Vancouver correspondent wires this afternoon as follows: "Capt. Tatlow says both he and R. McBride were offered portfolios and declined, not wishing to follow the leadership of Hon. Mr. Prior.

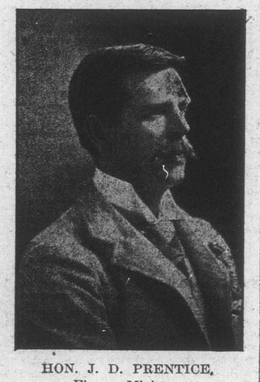
### THE MINISTERS TO DATE.

Hon. E. G. Prior, who was yesterday sworn in as Premier and Minister of Mines, was born in Yorkshire in 1853. After finishing his studies for mining engineer he came to Vancouver Island in 1873, as mining engineer and surveyor for the Vancouver Coal Mining Company at Nanaimo. He was two years inspector of mines, and in 1880 entered into the hardware business for himself in Victoria. From 1886 till 1888 he was a member of the British Columbia legislature. He then resigned, and was returned by acclamation to the Federal House in succession to Noah Shakespeare, who resigned. He entered Sir Mackenzie Bowell's government as controller of inland revenue in 1896, and continued in same capacity in Sir Chas. Tupper's administration, and remained with it until its defeat. Upon being unseated for the Dominion House of Commons he contested the riding of Victoria for the local legislature, and on March 10th was elected. He had previously been sworn in minister of mines in the Dunsmuir government.

Hon. J. D. Prentice, finance minister, was born in Lanarkshire in 1861. He was educated in Edingurgh, and has been managing director of the Western Canadian Ranching Company of East Lillooet for some years. In 1898 he was elected a member of the legislature, and in 1900 was re-elected. He entered the government of Hon. Jas. Dunsmuir shortly afterwards as provincial secretary. He has been minister of finance since September, 1901, when he succeeded Hon. J. H. Turner. He was sworn in as a member of the Prior cabinet yesterday.

HON. D. MURPHY.

Hon. W. C. Wells, chief commissioner of lands and works, is a son of the late Sheriff Wells, of Prescott, Ont. His brother, the late Hon. R. M. Wells, was for years a prominent member of the Ontario legislature, serving as Speaker for a time. During his younger days he was engaged in the lumber business in Montreal, and in 1883 came to British Columbia to follow the same business, locating at Palliser in Northeast Kootenay. He represents that riding in the House. In 1898 he suffered defeat, but on the death of the sitting member in 1899 he was elected by acclamation. In 1900 he was appointed chief commissioner on the organization of the Dunsmuir government. He has since held that office continuously. Hon. Mr. Wells was sworn in this morning.



HON. J. D. PRENTICE,
Finance Minister.

(From Monday's Daily.)

The forecast in the Times of Saturday as to who would fill the post of provincial secretary was borne out when late in the evening Denis Murphy, of West Yale, was sworn in to fill the long-vacant post. Mr. Murphy was offered the portfolio early in the afternoon, but it was some hours before he indicated his decision. The interim was spent in consulting with his friends, and obtaining their counsel in the matter.

On Saturday night's boat the opposition whip, R. F. Green, of Kaslo, came down to the Capital, accompanied by F. J. Fulton, of Kamloops, another of the opposition stalwarts. Both members have been on the Mainland for several days previously in consultation with the leader of the opposition, Mr. McBride, and with Messrs. Tatlow, Kidd, Gifford and others of the party. Mr. Green expressed astonishment at the course which Mr. Murphy had taken, and declared that he would inevitably be defeated when he offered for re-election in West Yale. Mr. Green claims that Mr. Murphy had material assistance in his election at the last contest by the contiguity of the ridings which returned opposition members. These include the ridings represented by Messrs. Fulton, McBride and Curtis, all of whom will strenuously oppose the return of their former fighting mate.

Mr. Green ridicules the statement of Premier Prior to the Times that he is assured of a good majority in the next House. Mr. Green contends that he must have twenty supporters to carry on in a House of thirty-eight, and his (Mr. Green) counting of noses does not disclose the presence of that many supporters of the ministry. He predicts that the new provincial secretary will be defeated at the bye-election, and that the downfall of the ministry will inevitably follow.

Among politicians the opinion is expressed that one of the greatest weaknesses of the new ministry will lie in the lack of old parliamentarians among their number. The ministry last year were largely dependent on the attorney-general for that experience and knowledge of procedure which is so indispensable in the conduct of public affairs in the face of strong opposition. With his defection it is held that the new ministry would be seriously handicapped, especially if they have to face an opposition with such men as Messrs. Eberts, Martin, McBride and Curtis.

Mr. Eberts is now out of it. It is doubtful if he would be given an opportunity of taking his portfolio now even if he desired to do so. Negotiations have been in progress throughout the day with W. W. B. McInnes, but up to the time of going to press he had not accepted the post.

That thePrior supporters were in error in counting on Mr. Gifford is evidenced by the following dispatch from the New Westminster correspondent of the Times, who was instructed to ascertain the views of the Fraser river representative. He wires:

"Thomas Gifford, when asked to state his attitude towards the new cabinet, had not much to say, but there was no uncertainty upon his opposition to the government. 'Personally,' he said, 'I like Colonel Prior very much, and think a good deal of him, but I cannot support him, even if I had the slightest inclination. I was elected for the purpose of opposing the government, and shall consistently do so. Besides, I'm built that way.'

"Mr. Gifford made no comment on Mr. Murphy's defection from the opposition beyond expressing surprise, common to all, at that gentleman's doing just what he publicly criticized J. C. Brown for doing. 'I am with the present opposition party, first, last and all the time,' concluded Mr. Gifford."

A telegram received to-day by Mr. McPhillips from his leader, Richard McBride, expressed astonishment at Mr. Murphy's action, and indicated that a vigorous campaign would be put up against him in West Yale.

Smith Curtis is ready to continue his fight, for a special to the Times from Rossland says:

"Smith Curtis says he is most unqualifiedly opposed to the Prior government, regarding it as practically the same as the Duasmuir government."

In the event of Mr. McInnes joining the cabinet, he may take the post of provincial secretary and Mr. Murphy that of attorney-general, while Mr. Clifford is more probable as president of the council than Mr. Helmcken.

John Houston is reported to have written Premier Prior promising him his support.

### Offered a Portfolio.

This afternoon Mr. McInnes was formally offered a portfolio by Colonel Prior, and will give his answer to the premier to-night. He will very probably accept the post.

### New Provincial Secretary.

Hon. Denis Murphy is a native British Columbian. He was born at Lac La Hache in 1870. He was educated at Ottawa University, graduating with the degree of B. A. In 1900 he entered the local legislature, having defeated G. W. Beebe by an overwhelming majority. He supported the Dunsmuir government until last session, when he became one of the opposition, his defection being due to his advocacy of the principle of competitive railways and his refusal to concur in the alliance of the government with the ex-leader of the opposition. He remained in opposition during the whole of the session. With only two years' experience in the House, his advancement has been remarkably fast.

He was sworn in on Saturday evening as provincial secretary and minister of education.

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SALE.

Bazaar in Connection With the Church of Our Lord Takes Place Next Week.

The ladies of the Church of Our Lord are very busily engaged getting ready for their annual sale of work, and numerous other attractions on the programme. For several years Philharmonic hall, on Fort street, has been the scene of delightful entertainments given under the auspices of the ladies of this church, and the management having recently improved the spacious building very considerably, the premises are highly suitable for the bazaar, now announced as a fixture for the 2nd and 3rd of December.

Coming so near the Christmas season, the large supply of articles that will be offered for sale will doubtless induce hundreds of present searchers to buy from the ladies who have long since established for themselves a record in the art of providing pretty and useful things at popular prices. There will be tables covered with fancy and plain work, dolls of all sorts—calculated to excite the interest and enthusiasm of the little ones—paper work, candy, flowers and fish pond, fuller particulars of which will be given later. On the second day of the sale luncheon will be served from 12 to 2, thus enabling everybody to partake of the hospitality of the fair hostesses. Afternoon tea may also be had each day for a trifling consideration.

As has already been advertised, a special committee has charge of the evening entertainment, viz., a musical comedy entitled "Jack the Giant Killer." Thirty or forty children have been working on this for months, and judging by the reports that have leaked out from the place of rehearsals a good time is in store for all those who are fortunate enough to be present.

### WHITE PASS OFFICES.

Vancouver, Nov. 24.—A. B. Newell, general manager of the White Pass railway, wired to Vancouver from Seattle to-day that the question of removing the head offices to either Vancouver of Victoria was being considered by his company. This is said to be proposed principally at the suggestion of Hon. A. G. Blair, minister of railways.

# GRAND TRUNK WILL BUILD TO COAST

## STATEMENT MADE BY GENERAL MANAGER HAYS

### Will Take the Mackenzie Route and Be Completed in Five Years After Surveying.

Winnipeg, Nov. 24.—F. M. Morse, third vice-president, and Wm. Wainwright, general assistant and comptroller of the Grand Trunk railway, have arrived from Port Arthur with General Superintendent James, of the Canadian Northern railway.

Interviewed regarding the proposed Grand Trunk railway transcontinental line, Mr. Morse confirmed the statement that his mission in the West was to look over the country with a view to reporting on the new line.

"We will build either from Gravenhurst or North Bay, a line north of the Canadian Pacific railway to Winnipeg," he said. "I have no hesitation in telling you there is no question of a purchase of the Canadian Northern railway line. As to a route from Winnipeg to the mountains, I am unable to give particulars."

The officials are guests of the Canadian Northern railway, and were called upon by D. B. Hanna, third vice-president, and Traffic Manager Shaw this morning. They will be here till Wednesday.

The reason the Grand Trunk railway should be favorably received, said Mr. Wainwright, is the fact that it has been established so long. There will be no delay in commencing to haul material. The works in the East will begin building new cars and locomotives at once. The railway can supply the West with products from the manufacturing centre and carry wheat to the seaboard.

### Will Build to Coast.

Ottawa, Nov. 24.—General Manager Hays, of the Grand Trunk, gives out an interview in Montreal that the Grand Trunk is going to build to the Pacific Coast. The road will be completed in five years after the surveys are made. It will take the Mackenzie route.

### MARRIAGE AT ALBERNI.

Mr. W. H. Butler and Miss Gladys E. Reeve United in Bonds of Matrimony.

Alberni, Nov. 24.—The marriage was celebrated here of Mr. William Henry Butler, eldest son of Captain Butler, formerly of the 94th regiment, and Gladys Effie, youngest daughter of Albert E. Reeve, R. N. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. E. Reeve. She was attired in blue velvet, trimmed with pale blue silk and Mechlin lace, with a blue picture hat with white ostrich plumes. The bride's sister acted as bridesmaid, while Mr. T. Morrison filled the part as best man.

### BENEFITS OF FAIRS.

To the Editor:—It may not be out of place for me to put before your readers a few thoughts respecting the holding of exhibitions or fairs in this city, and in doing so I would point out that at the present time it is not as profitable to criticise or condemn as to try by united action to perfect the government and conduct of the institution. The criticisms of management are much easier made and require less thought and study than the actual working of the fair.

The successful management of an agricultural show depends upon the business judgment exercised, as it is not for the benefit of the farming community alone. While it is principally made up of the produce and products of the farm, it extends with equal force and equal interests to all lines of business, manufacturing and general trade.

The important feature of the exhibition should be quantity and quality of exhibits, and the artistic and pleasing display of these when secured. The careful, competent and early judging of all articles, and the prompt distribution of prize cards, ribbons and money prizes to the winners. Courteous treatment, safety of exhibits and the studied comfort of exhibitors means another year's successful show.

The agricultural fair is regarded by a large part of the people as a kind of holiday entertainment. They go to the fair for amusement, and incidentally to take in the sights in the main building and cattle sheds. The side show and strictly amusement features are undoubtedly attendant essentials in making up the diversified interests of an exhibition, and without these the gates would suffer, as the fair would lack attractions, so the sifting out and wise discrimination of the attractions should be taken up and considered months before the opening day.

The extent of the influence for good that the exhibition, properly conducted, is capable of exerting cannot be fully estimated, so wide is its scope of educational interests and beneficial influences. This benefit has been acknowledged by all cities wherever held, and I fully believe it is by the citizens of Victoria.

As a sample of the up-hill progress of one of the most successful of Eastern exhibitions, I would refer to that of my native town, Halifax. With a population of twice that of Victoria, and a large agricultural country at its back, the receipts for the year 1896 were less than those at our show last year, and a deficit of over $12,000 was shouldered by the citizens. Each year since the receipts have been greater and the deficit less, until this year the local press is rejoicing, not that the show was self-sustaining, but that the shortage was only $4,000.

Surely if an agricultural exhibition is necessary and advantageous in the province of Nova Scotia, with such an extensive farming country that a foreign market has to be sought for a large portion of its products, how much more so must it be on the Island of Vancouver, where such a splendid market exists within our own boundaries?

Having proved by the exhibits at the last two shows that our fair is worth visiting, it will become easier year by year to attract visitors and secure excursions, thus swelling the gate returns with far less advertising than has been necessary in the past. The exhibition needs more honest encouragement and better transportation facilities, the latter of which can only be secured by establishing the permanency of the annual fair.

BEAUMONT BOGGS,
Secretary.

### THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

We think it will be conceded that the only proper and fair course in the new political circumstances which have developed within the last few days is to suspend criticism until the government has definitely enunciated its policy. There is a disposition in some quarters already to condemn the administration. That attitude is scarcely reasonable, and is apt to arouse a suspicion that there are other motives than a sincere desire for the welfare of British Columbia influencing the minds of the critics. And yet the outporings of condemnation are only what might be expected under the peculiar circumstances of the case.

The patriots who are imbued with a desire to serve this province in position of emolument and profit are very numerous. Aware of the change which was imminent, they have been intriguing night and day to swing events in the direction which would be most profitable to themselves from a personal rather than a patriotic point of view. There was a Conservative convention held in British Columbia but a short time ago. That gathering declared itself in favor of party lines, that is, the division of the political forces of the province as they are constituted in federal politics. That declaration was made entirely in the interests of the province, of course. Mr. Borden, the federal leader, took part in the deliberations. His counsels were actuated by a sincere desire for a definite division of our people and for the clearing away of the political mists under the clouds of which our public men have been making such lightning changes. He had no thought of possible advantages which might accrue to his party in the Dominion through the presence on the treasury benches of half a dozen sympathetic Ministers, with the power and the will to manipulate the machinery under their control in the manner which would prove the most beneficial to their friends in the East. It was pure benevolence which actuated Mr. Charles Wilson, K. C., to seek and to secure the leadership of that party and to declare his personal conviction to the present Premier—and no doubt the conviction of the forces of Conservatism as represented at that convention also—that the Mainland would never "stand for" another Island Premier. We don't believe for a moment that the Mainland harbors such illiberal ideas. We don't think British Columbia cares a button which section the present Premier represents, or any future Premier may represent, so long as he wisely and with boldness tempered with discretion directs the public affairs of the country. That outburst of confidence on the part of Mr. Wilson was merely an illustration of the unhealthy ambition that burns within his bosom to serve the province.

We have not the least doubt that Mr. Wilson had selected the colleagues who were to assist him in the government he was to set up in the name of the Conservative party. Possibly some of them were quite prominent in the forces which opposed the administration of Mr. Dunsmuir. It may be that they thought a short cut to power had been opened up to them as a result of the deliberations of the great convention. Unfortunately for them, the retiring Premier obstinately shut his eyes to the claims of the tituar leader of the Conservative party. Another prominent politician under whom they would have been willing to serve temporarily until Mr. Wilson came into his own—a seat in the House—was also unaccountably passed over. The Lieut.-Governor personally may have the most accurate personal knowledge of the importance, the abilities and the disinterested patriotism of certain political figures, but officially he usually prefers to follow the advice tendered him by a retiring First Minister. It is somewhat painful to think that intense patriotism, untinged by the slightest element of personal ambition, should be thus rudely thwarted.

During the whole course of its career the Times has been politically opposed to Colonel Prior. We believe events have justified our opposition to him and to the party he assisted in maintaining in power for many years to the manifest hurt of the Dominion of Canada. But at last he is responsible for two acts of which we most heartily approve. He has upset the ambitious plans of the man who deliberately expressed the opinion that British Columbia would "stand for" no more Island Premiers, who would have made sectional feeling a stepping stone in his ambitious career, and he has called into his cabinet one of the rising young public men of the province, one who, we hope and believe, will take a prominent part in lifting the province out of the slough into which it has been plunged by a series of incompetent, blundering, venal administrations. The new Provincial Secretary and Minister of Education is one of the ablest of the young men in the House. He is a ready debater, quick-witted and alert, and should be a tower of strength to the government when it is on the defensive on the floor of the House.

We suspend judgment on the government until we know its personnel and its policy. We have little faith in the ultimate success of Col. Prior, but we are willing to give him time to test his ability to deal with a political situation that is surrounded with unprecedented difficulties, and which, in our opinion, are not likely to be removed without an appeal to the people.

### LET THEM ALL COME.

As has already been noted in the Times, there is "a something" in the air which inspires the belief that British Columbia has about reached the end of the period of uncertainty—it can hardly be called stagnation—which has been characteristic of the past few years. There has been a steady advancement in our lode mining industry, but it has been largely confined to the section of the province which is provided with railway transportation facilities. It is well known that the sections into which railways do not penetrate cannot advance beyond a certain well defined stage and that when that stage is reached there is nothing to do but await the appearance of the great transformer of modern times—the locomotive.

In this connection it is inspiring to read that the first of Canada's great railway companies, the Grand Trunk, has concluded that to fulfil its manifest destiny it must reach from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It has lost ground and prestige by taking such a long time to find that out. The riches and the variety of the resources of the Canadian West had to be proved before the Grand Trunk evinced a determination to become a factor in their exploitation. It long remained the Doubting Thomas of our great transportation companies. Perhaps that was because it was managed from London and possessed the well known contempt of a certain circle there for all things colonial. It has sunk millions upon millions in American connections which have proved the very opposite of remunerative, and neglected opportunities at home which experience has proved would have afforded rich returns.

The rewards which the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern have reaped in the West, coupled with the opinion of Mr. Blair, the Canadian Minister of Railways and Canals, that there is ample territory and products to absorb the activities of at least four transcontinental roads, may have been the determining factors in the decision of Mr. Hays, the Grand Trunk's manager, to penetrate the Far West. From his first announcement we understood that the company had decided to stick to its original policy and make its way to the coast via its Chicago connections. If that were the original intention, it must have been modified. It is announced that applications will be made to the federal and the provincial legislatures for charters which will carry the line to this coast through Canada. It was supposed that efforts were to be made to acquire the Canadian Northern, but Mr. Mackenzie has expressed the opinion that his company is entirely satisfied with the present position and the future prospects of its property and that the line is not for sale. It appears, therefore that the new factor in Western development must put down its own roadbed. That means that the Great Northern, the Canadian Pacific, the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk will all penetrate British Columbia and practically grid-iron it at different latitudes with rails. Thus instead of one zone of activity of limited extent the whole province will be provided with means of communication within itself and with the outside world. The imagination can supply a picture of the results that are certain to follow. The construction of the C. P. R. was followed by the establishment of many populous centres. The C. P. R. is said to be built through the leanest portion of the province. The proposed new lines will profit by the experience of that road and follow the routes which promise to return them the richest rewards consistent with constructional possibilities. Therefore we say that the future is bright and such as to cause a feeling of optimism in the breast of everyone interested in the welfare of British Columbia. But there was never yet a scheme advanced to which opposition could not be generated. All the companies which desire to penetrate British Columbia should be made welcome and every inducement held out to them to hasten their operations.

It looks as though our old friend the Colonel has "gone up against a pretty stiff proposition." His appearance at the head of the government has apparently united for the time the heterogeneous forces of the opposition. They resent the advent of this stranger to provincial politics. They regard him as a rank outsider and are for the time united in the determination to drive him out. A government defeat would mean a general election. The new Premier is entitled to a pronouncement by the people. Even if he were not, there is apparently now no faction of sufficient strength to carry on. The situation is becoming quite tense and interesting. No one can predict with certainty what will happen. British Columbian politicians delight in lightning changes.

Ottawa, Nov. 24.—Justice Armour was sworn in a judge of the Supreme court to-day and took his seat on the bench. The bar congratulated Chief Justice Armour on his apopintment.