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THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The present mixed condition of politics in the province affords ample grounds for the formation of individual opinion and the determination of personal action. It is apparent that all attempts to draw close party lines must prove ineffectual. The resolution of a number of Conservatives in the various ridings to organize, has not met with the cordial support on the part of the rank and file which encourages them to believe that their efforts will result in any remarkable degree of success at the polls, and the added fact that many of the leading members of the party are also holding aloof, increases the probability of failure. The Liberals, as yet, have come to no decision and it is doubtful whether at their convention shortly to be held, they will decide to place party candidates in the field and appeal to their friends to act unitedly. If they do, it is safe to say that they will meet with no more success than the Conservative machine is likely to achieve. It seems certain that the great majority of the electors will give their individual support to the candidates whom they regard as the best men in the field.

If this is so, and we think it is, any candidate who is not possessed of personal merit will not have slight chance of election, and those responsible for his nomination will be wasting their labor and votes. It will be so in an especial degree in the Kootenay district, which has, during the past year, been so hampered in the development of its properties by the evils of bad legislation and negligent administration. What is needed in our member, above all things, is a desire to serve the best interests of the district. He should understand and be able to present its needs; he should have no personal axes to grind, and should be broad enough to disregard party affiliations. The mass of the people who have suffered so much during the past year by reason of incompetency, and worse, in their legislators, understand this, and will not be induced for an advantage to party, to jeopardize the interests of the country. The candidate, whether Conservative or Liberal, who commends himself to the electors by his ability, and disinterested desire for the good of the community, will not only carry with him the votes of his own political stripe, but a considerable portion of the other party, unless his opponent should be a man of equal worth and prominence.

It would be well for the Conservative association to remember this in nominating their candidate at their approaching convention. They have within their ranks in this riding some men who possess the confidence and respect of the community generally—men whom the strongest Liberals acknowledge would make excellent representatives. With men of this stamp in the field they would have a good fighting chance of carrying the election. On the other hand, some of those spoken of as likely to secure the nomination are machine men simply, the selection of whom would be due entirely to their devotion to party and in no respect to their capability for office or to the confidence reposed in them by the people. Such a candidate would lose the votes even of warm friends of his own party.

The feeling throughout the constituency is strong that the next member shall not only be a thoroughly capable man, but that he shall not be dominated by any one section of the community; that he shall neither lend himself to furthering the interest of the mine owner to the disadvantage of the operative, or be guilty of attempting to excite the passions and capture the votes of the working miners by making promises which he cannot and does not intend to fulfill; that he shall be one who possesses a sincere desire to serve honestly and fairly the best interests of the community, to help forward by the introduction of good laws, the development of the mineral properties, and to see that the wage earner is fairly, even liberally dealt with. In short, he must be a man who will stand out against class legislation.

THOROUGH SANITATION NEEDED.

We are very sorry that we are again compelled to draw the attention of the city council and the board of health to the necessity of cleaning up the fever-breeding spots in the city before the advent of the warm weather. We wish to impress upon them that the cleansing of the city is not accomplished by removing

the pollution, from which the danger to the health of the community will arise, from one place within the corporation to another. By so doing the evil is not eradicated, its base of operation is simply changed and the mere act of stirring it up and thereby releasing the germs is an added danger. This is what has been done within the past week in at least one instance. A few days ago, in a communication to this paper, a citizen complained, and very reasonably, that a spot near the opera house was simply a sink of filth, and was a danger to the health of everybody in the neighborhood. The complaint was distasteful to, and probably investigated, for a force of men was sent to remove the nuisance. Instead of carting it away in wagons to a safe spot outside of the boundaries of the city, where it would not be any longer dangerous, the garbage and manure which was discovered there in large quantities were dumped over the bridge into the gully which runs down toward the valley. This simply meant that it was transferred a few yards and placed in a less conspicuous spot. The danger to the health of the citizens residing in the neighborhood will not be lessened one whit by the change of location. If this is the idea the members of the board of health have of sanitation the sooner they resign their offices the better it will be for all concerned.

BAD POLITICS.

In appointing their delegates to the provincial convention to be held in Vancouver on the 5th of April, the Rossland Liberal Association we consider, acted very unwisely, on Thursday night, in not including Hon. Smith Curtis among the number. That meeting was a small one, and one, as constituted, was opposed by a spare majority to Hon. Joseph Martin, and selected only those members who would record their votes against endorsing him and his platform, affords no excuse for overlooking Mr. Curtis, even though that gentleman is a supporter of the Premier and a member of his cabinet. Mr. Smith Curtis has always been an active and staunch member of the Liberal party. He is so today. He is the most prominent member of that party in this constituency. He is a member of the government, which, however much opposed the members of the party may be, individually to it, is now administering the affairs of the province. He has been a resident of Rossland since his arrival in British Columbia, and was offered the portfolio of mines because of his acquaintance with this district and his desire for and interest in, its development and prosperity. Apart from all these facts, as a prominent member of the Liberal party, whose business would naturally carry him to the coast at about the time the convention was being held, it was only a matter of justice that he should have been selected by the association as one of its representatives. His public position and his voluntary statement that he was willing to submit himself to the voice of the convention should have made it impossible that he should have been passed by. Party conventions, we take it, are held for the purpose, ostensibly at least, of obtaining the actual opinions of the party, in free and untrammelled discussion, on the questions which come before them. But how can the opinions of the party as a whole be obtained if, by means which have at least a sinister aspect, one of the most prominent members in the province is excluded. However strongly the members here or elsewhere, may feel against Mr. Martin, they have no right to prevent a fair hearing of his case if the convention is to be what it ought to be. They have no right to do so while Mr. Martin is still a member of the party, and they certainly have no just cause to exclude a member of his administration with whom they have never had any quarrel and whom they, simply as individuals, object to on the ground only that he is a supporter of the premier. The very fact that Mr. Curtis is now in Rossland with the sole object of trying to settle the labor trouble here, and without the slightest intention of winning personal or political advantage by it, and that to his individual effort is largely due the present hopeful aspect of affairs, should in itself have influenced the members of the association to send him by their united vote, as one of their delegates to the convention. That he has been overlooked or rather that he has been rejected, can only be attributed to a feeling of hostility which does no credit to the association and which must be censured as bad politics.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

There was executed at Spokane yesterday one Webster, a murderer, and hangings in Spokane are of such rare occurrence that the event naturally excited a great deal of attention. The murder for which Webster paid the penalty was a peculiarly atrocious one. He was a charity guest at a farm house, and made an indecent proposal to the wife of his host, and because she indignantly scorned him, in his lustful indignation, shot her, inflicting a wound from the effects of which she died two days afterwards. The wonder is, under circumstances so plain, that a wretch of so bestial and blood-thirsty a nature should have been allowed to live nearly three years after the commission of so fearful a crime. Every device of the lawyer retained to defend Webster was exhausted; every appeal tak-

en possible to evade justice, so this red-handed murderer lived for three years nearly after the body of his victim had been placed in the grave.

There must, indeed, be some serious defect in the criminal law of the state of Washington when a murderer of the Webster type could have so long evaded the noose and black cap of the hangman. He was, as guilty the instant he fired the fatal shot at his victim as he was yesterday when he was hanged, and what reason was there for almost three years of delay? A few months, or at the most, six, would have been ample, and would have given the murderer decent time in which to formulate his defence and to prepare himself for his exit into the next world. It would seem that these defects in the law which enables murderers to live a long time, or to go totally unwhipped by justice, are responsible for the many crimes of this sort which take place in the United States. If justice there were swift, instead of slow, mercies instead of merciful, toward the slayers of men and women, there would be much less killings than there is. On this side of the line the law punishes murderers swiftly, and this has the effect of greatly lessening this particular crime. The United States could, therefore, with profit, copy our methods in this respect.

As lax and as ineffective as the present laws are in the United States, the door is being opened wider for the slayers of their fellow men, by the abolishment of the death penalty in some of the states. The states in which the death penalty is forbidden by law are Colorado, Rhode Island, Maine, Michigan and Wisconsin. In Rhode Island the only alternative is imprisonment for life. The death penalty is inflicted in all of the states for murder except the five mentioned.

There is too much maudlin sympathy expressed and shown for men of the Webster type. There are a number of sentimentalists in the United States, like W. Dean Howells, the novelist, who claims that the sufferings of the man who murders and who rests under the shadow of the gallows for months or years, as the case may be, are a thousand times what those of his victim are. The uncertainty, the tortures and the fear that he may be punished with death for his crime is ever present, and this, they claim, inflicts punishment upon him which is many times greater than the short period of pain usually endured by the victim. Even if this is true, it is no argument against the infliction of the death penalty. The object of executing a man for the crime of murder is not to punish him so much as it is that it may act as a deterrent to others who might contemplate committing this crime. Hence it is where the law is swift and sure, and murderers are promptly punished, murders are few; while they are plenty where the law against killing is lax, and where justice moves so slowly as to have no terrors for those who wantonly slay their fellow man. Under the former condition life is comparatively safe and under the latter life is cheaply held, and the greatest crime that man can commit is of frequent occurrence. Happily the people of British Columbia do not hold the lives of their fellow citizens cheaply, and this is partially so because the law against the crime is enforced, as it properly should be.

THE LIBERAL CONVENTION.

There is every promise that the Liberal convention, which is to be held on the 5th of April in Vancouver will be conducted in anything but a harmonious manner. In not a few of the constituencies the inclination to take extreme views of the party situation is already abundantly apparent and the cause of all the dissensions seems to be the Hon. Joseph Martin. If we are to judge from the reports which are now coming in the voice of the convention will hardly express the opinion even of the majority of the party let alone that of the entire body of the Liberals. There is too much evidence of a desire to nominate candidates to the convention because they are strongly opposed to Mr. Martin, or because they are strongly in his favor. What should be desired is a free discussion of the situation and a result based on what, after due consideration, appears to a majority of the convention to be in the best interests of the country. This is impossible, however, if the convention is to be constituted of two diverse and uncompromising elements and the determination arrived at will therefore be utterly without influence on the country or on the party as a whole. We had an illustration of the way in which things are being conducted in not a few of the ridings by the rejection here in Rossland of Hon. Smith Curtis as a delegate. And while this error was corrected at a subsequent meeting it abundantly displayed the intractableness of the section of the party opposed to Hon. Joe Martin. We have another illustration of the same mistaken spirit, only on the other side, by the rejection in Vancouver of Mr. E. P. Davis. It is well known that Mr. Davis is one of the ablest and most prominent members of the party in the province. That he has not entered politics is due entirely to the immense sacrifices he would have to make in his professional business. He is a man of the highest personal integrity and were he a member of the house he would command the confidence of the country in all

his public acts. That a man like this should be overlooked or rejected by the association in the community in which he lives is the clearest possible evidence that the delegation appointed from that association goes to the convention with one set purpose and that they have not been given the privilege of deliberating on the questions which come up and of acting according to their best judgment. If the convention is to be so constituted it would be better that it should not be held at all because it will be nothing better than a farce.

CANADA'S MINERAL OUTPUT.

The mineral production of Canada for the year 1899, which has just been issued by the Geological Survey, and which is found in a condensed form in another portion of this issue, makes a very creditable showing. It attained in the year 1899 the large proportions of \$47,275,512. This is \$8,614,502 more than in 1898, when it was \$38,661,010. It was more than twice as great as it was in 1896, when it was \$22,584,513. To show how it has grown since 1896, a glance backward to the figures of that year need but be taken, when they were only \$10,221,255. The most valuable single item was gold, the total value of which was \$21,049,730. The larger portion of this came from the Yukon, \$16,000,000, and there was also an increase of 58 per cent in the gold output of Ontario. Of the items, gold furnished 44.53 per cent of the whole, coal 19.12 per cent, copper 5.62 per cent, lead 2.07 per cent, and silver 8.99 per cent. It is interesting to note in connection with silver and lead that in 1898 silver was 10.77 per cent of the total value, as against 8.99 per cent for 1899, while lead was 2.07 per cent of the total in 1899, and 3.12 per cent in 1898, the falling off in the production of these two metals in 1899 to less than they were in 1898, was due to the labor troubles in the Slocan, which is the principal place of their production in the Dominion. In fact, the output would have been much larger than it was but for these troubles. The mining industry is growing and flourishing rapidly, and is destined to have a much greater importance than it now has attained. We look for a substantial increase this year, and it will be principally in British Columbia and the Yukon. The total mineral output for the year 1899 should easily reach something over a value of \$60,000,000.

THE "ENGLISH ARMY."

During some of the debates in Parliament the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, alluded to the British forces operating in South Africa as the English army. This has caused considerable criticism, both in this city and elsewhere as to the correctness of the term, when, as a matter of fact, the army in South Africa is made up of soldiers from England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Cape Colony and Natal. It is held that the term Imperial army would have been a more correct one for the statesman to have used.

Let us look into the facts. Her Majesty is called the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India. Great Britain is the largest island in Europe. It is so called to distinguish it from lesser Britain or Bretagne. The Island of Great Britain comprises England, Scotland and Wales. Great Britain, Ireland, the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea and the smaller islands in the British seas are spoken of generally as the British Isles. The United Kingdom includes Great Britain and Ireland, but neither the Isle of Man, nor the Channel Islands, near the French coast, are represented in the British Parliament. These islands are in the enjoyment of ancient institutions, and though in statistical documents, they figure occasionally as if they formed an integral part of the United Kingdom, they are in reality merely British dependencies.

This is shown by the composition of the British Parliament which consists of the sovereign, the House of Lords and the House of Commons, and no act obtains the force of law until it has passed all three. The House of Lords numbers 478 members, including six princes of the blood, the two archbishops and 24 bishops of the Established Church of England, 403 peers of the United Kingdom, 16 Scottish representative peers elected for each Parliament, and 28 Irish peers elected for life. The House of Commons consists of 670 members, 495 for England and Wales, 72 for Scotland and 103 for Ireland.

From this it will be seen that England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland alone are represented in the British Parliament, and the use of the expression English army was not correct because it is not justified by the facts in the case. The army is made up, as stated before, of troops from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, Cape Colony and Natal. What the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain should have called the army now fighting in South Africa should have been the Imperial army, because it was drawn from many different sections of the British Empire. Some Scotch representative could with quite as much right have called it the Scottish army or an Irish M. P. have entitled the soldiers of the Queen the Irish army. There is a tendency on the part of some to claim all the credit for everything done for the

English portion of Great Britain. It may be that the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain is of the type that wants to assert a right to everything in sight for Englishmen, because he is of that blood, or maybe it was simply a slip of the tongue. Which ever one of the above two reasons it was that prompted Mr. Chamberlain to call the Imperial army the English army he should be taken to task by some one of the many members of Parliament. The soldiers of the other portions of the Empire have done too much good fighting and are therefore worthy of better treatment at the hands of even the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. Once the matter is properly brought to his attention he will doubtless apologize for the palpable display of bad taste which he has been guilty of. We are all ready to fight for the flag and to be soldiers of the Queen, but we do not wish the fact that we have aided the Empire to be overlooked by a statesman who is a native of England.

LYING REPORTS.

The animus which is being displayed by Conservative politicians on the coast against the Hon. Joseph Martin is calculated to gain sympathy for that gentleman rather than do him an injury. During the last month press reports have been persistently sent from the provincial capital containing such utterly untruthful accounts of his efforts to fill up his ministry and bearing evidence of such a hysterical desire to injure him in the estimation of the people that when it becomes known what their origin is, and their origin will become known before the elections take place they will act as a boomerang on those responsible for them. Mr. Martin is to be judged by his career in the House and by the way in which he is at present conducting the affairs of the province, not by the silly fabrications of his enemies. Besides he has signified his willingness to submit himself to the Liberal convention which is to be held tomorrow in Vancouver, and that convention will be likely to be able to deal with him without any intervention or advice from interested Conservative sources. The Conservative machine is not likely to reap any advantage from persistent attempts to injure him especially when it is understood that the reports circulated are paid for with corporation money furnished by those who have a direct personal interest in seeing Mr. Martin politically killed. While we have no desire for the triumph of Mr. Martin at this convention, we certainly think that he ought to have a fair trial and reasonable hearing and, as we have said, he should be judged by what he has said and done, and not be overthrown by statements which have their origin in the unscrupulous hostility of his enemies.

CONSERVATIVE NOMINEES.

It seems to be fairly well settled by the Conservatives of this constituency that Governor Mackintosh is to be the nominee of the convention to be held on the 10th of this month, or in case of his refusal to allow himself to be brought forward as a candidate, that Mr. Alexander Dick will be asked to become the Conservative standard bearer. Advice comes from the Boundary country to the effect that either of these gentlemen would be satisfactory to the Conservatives there. There is no doubt that either one would make a strong run. Governor Mackintosh is especially well known in the constituency, and there is no doubt that if he were elected he would have the confidence of the whole riding, as far as his individual acts as a legislator were concerned. He is a man who is personally above reproach, and we imagine that the Liberals here, if they were unable to elect their own man, would admit that there is no one in the riding whom they would more gladly have as a representative of the district. Mr. Dick, too, would, as a candidate of the Conservative party, incur no personal hostility at least, from his political opponents, and his election would be regarded not unfavorably by those who might oppose him on party grounds. The Conservative association, in bringing out either of the gentlemen, would be displaying a desire to put forward the best man available, and to that extent they would strengthen themselves with the electorate.

DELAGOA BAY AWARD.

Numerous inquiries have been made as to the reasons for the recent award of the court of arbitration at Berne in the matter of the Delagoa Bay railway controversy, and it has been deemed best to answer them in this column. The Delagoa Bay dispute between Portugal on the one side and Great Britain and the United States on the other, has dragged along for years. It arose over a dispute as to the payment for the construction of the Delagoa Bay railway. The trouble commenced in 1889, when the road was practically completed through Portuguese territory, when a pretext was gotten up declaring the concession and the railway forfeited. The pretext was utterly indefensible, but under it the widow of Colonel McMurdo, who owned the concession and the controlling interest in the shares of the company, and the British holders of debentures and shares were threatened with the complete loss of all that they had in the railway. The matter was

brought to the attention of the British and the United States governments, and prompt action was taken by Lord Salisbury, and the then United States secretary of state, James G. Blaine, to protect the interests of their respective countrymen. They held that Portugal, by her unwarranted and illegal action, was liable for not only the amount due, but also for heavy damages. But the law's delays prevailed in this, as it does in many other cases of a like nature. There was long documentary and oral evidence in the case; then, too, commissioners had to be appointed to appraise the value of the property. These were compelled to go over the ground. This caused the consumption of considerable time, and so the case has dragged along for years. Recently the British and American governments requested the arbitration court to expedite matters, and the result was a decision which was made public a few days since. The award is considerably less than was expected. Under the decision of the court Portugal is compelled to pay 15,314,000 francs, in addition to the £28,000 paid in 1890. It was thought that Portugal would be compelled to pay at least \$12,000,000 or \$15,000,000. The sum awarded, it is provided, shall be employed in the payment of the bondholders and other creditors of the Delagoa Bay Railway company.

It was thought that the award would be so large that the Portuguese would not be able to pay it, and then Great Britain could step in and pay the amount set by the arbitrators and thus secure the road. The amount awarded, however, is so small that it is thought Portugal will be able to pay it without any great inconvenience.

The whole affair reflects great discredit upon Portugal, and shows how futile it is in the end for nations like Portugal to perpetrate frauds of this kind on the citizens of countries like Great Britain and the United States. They will go further than other nations to protect the rights of their citizens when they are unfairly treated. Portugal should have known better than to attempt to be dishonest with the citizens of these two countries, and may congratulate herself that, in the present instance, she has gotten off so lightly.

THE FINAL TERMS SUBMITTED.

We publish in this morning's issue the final terms which the management of the Le Roi and B. A. C. companies and the War Eagle and Centre Star companies have submitted for the consideration of the Union. Appended is a very dispassionate and reasonable communication from Mr. Ralph Smith and Mr. R. C. Clute, in which they very clearly sum up the conditions existing here, and comment on the conduct of the negotiations and their crystallization in the document presented. That they very strongly urge the members of the Miners' union to adopt the terms submitted ought to, and no doubt will receive due consideration from the union. The members of the union are deserving of the highest credit for the conciliatory spirit they have displayed throughout the negotiations, for the sincere desire they have evinced to arrive at a compromise and their evident willingness to assist in having development work in the mining properties in the camp resumed. It is a matter of vital concern to everybody in the city that the trouble should terminate at once, and every resident of the community will strongly re-echo the hope expressed by the mediators that the terms will be found satisfactory by the members of the union and will be indorsed by them.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The editor of the Nelson Tribune is very greatly exercised over the political situation in the Rossland riding, and is anxious to give advice to Liberals and Conservatives alike in regard to the candidates whom they should nominate. It is somewhat difficult to understand the position which the Tribune takes in regard to the political situation. There is evidently an effort on its part to reconcile its Conservative leanings with an ever present intention to serve its own best interests. It has hopelessly alienated by its extreme stand both the best element of the working miners and the mine owners, and it sees no possible hope for the "graft" which is always looking for except in some nondescript administration which will be subservient to the worst element among the provincial politicians. It would be well if the Tribune would confine itself to looking after the constituency where it has some influence, and not bother itself with other parts of the country where it has no standing. The electors of Rossland will hardly take the cue from the Nelson paper in regard to the men whom they should bring out or support for the legislature.

POLICE COURT.

Case Against Paul and Hackett Is Adjudged Till Saturday.

William Hackett and Edward Paul were brought up before Police Magistrate Boutbee yesterday by Chief Ingram, charged with being in possession of stolen property and offering the same for sale.

As Chief Ingram was not quite prepared with the whole evidence in the case for the prosecution, he sought and obtained an adjournment for Saturday morning next.

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