

DEPRESSION PREVAILS IN LIBERAL CIRCLES

Collapse of McInnes Boom and Weakness of Ticket Cause Doleful Feelings—John Piercy Nominated in Saanich

The bubble has burst. The confidence openly expressed in the Liberal camp that the visit of their leader, J. A. Macdonald, K. C., in company with the ex-commissioner of the Yukon, W. B. McInnes, to Victoria would turn the trend of public opinion in their favor has been belied. It was thought that Messrs. Macdonald and McInnes, particularly the latter, would be able to rouse the local Liberals from their despondency and put them in a better frame of mind to contest the pending election. With that object in view, what was advertised as a grand rally was held at the Victoria Theatre. It was addressed by the two gentlemen mentioned. But without effect; those present listened to what was said stoically, without any emotional display of appreciation, and left commenting on the fact that they had heard no logical argument advanced against the policy of the government, no criticism of a character to shake the confidence of the electorate in the administration which has had control of the destinies of the province for the past three years.

It is not difficult to substantiate these statements. They are corroborated by the discussion of the election upon the faces of the majority of the prominent Liberals. And it is no wonder that they should present such an appearance. As an amused on-looker remarked yesterday, they have been buying up their hopes in the vision of the late governor of the Yukon speaking from Ottawa, the capital city of the Dominion, and the vision of the late governor of the Yukon and gone, they are beginning to realize that he had no message for the people of such importance as would turn them from their determination to uphold the government which has so wisely and successfully administered public affairs. As a result they are even more depressed in spirit than before.

"The McInnes boom has exploded," remarked one of those who, while personally unbiased in following the course of the campaign which has just commenced with considerable interest. He pointed out that the people had been led to expect that when he arrived they would hear something which would change their opinions, which would support the idea that the Liberals should be placed in power. But what had he seen? The people had seen a man who, in his speeches delivered by Mr. Macdonald and by Mr. McInnes, displayed a startling similarity. They dealt with the same subjects, the former in a terse manner and the latter in his more flowery style. Neither, however, had succeeded in rousing the audience to any pitch of enthusiasm, and neither had been successful in persuading the voters that there should be a change of government. The ex-commissioner of the Yukon had nothing new to say. He had delivered a characteristic speech, but when it was boiled down it was found to contain nothing but platitudes—to be brief, little less than a clever manipulation of words.

With a split in their ranks, which is daily assuming greater dimensions, the Liberals are unable to make any impression upon the public mind, and with the natural depression following upon these failures, the Liberals themselves acknowledge that they start upon the fight very much handicapped.

On the other hand, the Liberal-Conservatives have taken up confidence with enthusiasm and confidence. Having without a doubt the support of the public behind them, they will labor to make the majority as large as possible. That the Liberal ticket will be snuffed under they are assured. Hitherto, it is pointed out, the latter have not attempted to put up an aggressive contest. Even if they manage to do so, it is an effort in support of their nominees, the belief in all circles appears to be that the attempt will be most deplorably futile.

What reasonable attack has been made upon the government so far? Has any criticism been advanced of sufficient weight to warrant the defeat of Premier McBride and his supporters? These very pertinent questions were asked yesterday by a non-partisan politician. The answer to them, he stated, could be given by anyone who had followed the course of events since the announcement of the dissolution of the house. The Liberal leader, his first lieutenant and all his adherents had not yet been able to formulate any strong attack upon the administration. They had rehearsed the old scandals of Klon Island and the Columbian & Western railway; but that was all. Their criticism of the financial policy was as weak as water while, heretofore, they had not been able to decry the enterprise displayed by the government in advertising fruit-growing possibilities of British Columbia in the Old Country. Nor had they been able to satisfactorily explain away the fact that the province had been plied through an exceedingly critical period to unequaled prosperity by the ability of Premier McBride and his colleagues.

It was quite evident that the Liberals were going to the country without a definite policy. They had accused the government of being without a well-defined platform. The shoe, rather, was on the other foot. And the public would not fail to realize the fact before the campaign had been long in progress. They would have to have some evidence that a change was needed before they could be induced to desert Premier McBride and his colleagues on the 2nd of February.

This is the sentiment, not only in Victoria, but throughout the island and on the Mainland. A. E. McPhillips, K. C., the Liberal-Conservative candidate for the Islands constituency, left for that district yesterday. He is confident of being returned. D. M. Eberts, K. C., is at work among the electors of Saanich and is equally optimistic. Hon. C. E. Fooley expresses perfect confidence in receiving the endorsement of a large majority of the residents of the Esquimalt riding, and from information being received from authentic sources, it is well-assured that his belief is based upon a firm foundation. W. H. Hayward is sure of his election in Cowichan, while Hon. W. Macdonald, the new provincial secretary, is confident of being returned in Alberni. He is not at all alarmed at the report that Mr. McInnes intends descending upon the unsuspecting electors of that section in the endeavor to unsettle their minds. He is sure that he will meet with little success. Meanwhile accounts are constantly coming to hand of the triumphal tour of the in-

terior constituencies being made by Premier McBride. Everywhere he is being cordially welcomed and sanctified promises of support at the forthcoming elections.

The outlook from the standpoint of Liberal Conservatism was never brighter.

VICTORIA'S JUDGMENT

Good Reasons for a Change of Mind Since 1903

The Vancouver News-Advertiser, in its issue of yesterday, said editorially: "The proceedings at the Conservative convention in Victoria on Monday last were alike harmonious and enthusiastic. They were an excellent illustration of the change in political sentiment that has occurred since the general election of 1903. The present Conservative government had acceded to office, not by the popular vote as recorded at the polls, but by a victory in the legislature, but by the action of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, who had damaged the Prior government of which, by the way, Mr. W. B. McInnes had been a member) and invited Mr. McBride to undertake the task of forming a cabinet. This Mr. McBride succeeded in doing, and at the earliest possible moment he went to the country in order that the electors might ratify the action of the Lieutenant-Governor in placing the conduct of provincial affairs in his hands. The prospect of success was not a very favorable one. The times were out of joint. From 1900 to 1903 three different administrations had had brief existences. Immense additions to the provincial debt had been made in the last few years. The government seemed to be in a state of disarray, and apparently only imbued with the idea that provincial affairs might be better administered after that the deluge. Besides the addition of \$3,600,000 to the permanent debt, large floating liabilities had been incurred; the treasury was empty and creditors clamorous for payment. No one knew what the future would be, and many a voter thought it was likely as not that the McBride cabinet would have as brief a career as its immediate predecessors, and meet defeat at the polls.

Under such circumstances it was not surprising that there was little enthusiasm displayed for the government, or that some important constituencies showed no friendly disposition to the idea that the government was a purely Mainland combination of four members to oppose it. But the experiences of the past three years have worked a great change in the sentiment of the people of the Capital. They have come to realize that the government is neither a Mainland nor an Island administration, but a British Columbia administration, knowing no geographical distinctions, but imbued with the fact that it was equally responsible to the whole province. And in all its actions, in all the details of its policy, that view has always been in every section of the province, every industry, has received equal treatment at the government's hands, and the whole province has shared in the benefits of the good government, a prudent but progressive policy has brought to British Columbia a new era. New Mr. McBride and his colleagues are about to reap their reward for their labors at the hands of the electors in Victoria, the capital, is the first to speak and on February 2 will give emphatic proof of the recognition by her citizens of what the government has done for her. Anyone who is acquainted with Victoria will agree that in Messrs. McBride, Thomson, Babson and Daxer the Conservative party has candidates who will carry the four seats for the government. Victorians are no longer content to be in antagonism to the government; they realize how the Capital has suffered in the past from its representation in the legislature, and they must have a more potent, a more influential voice in the councils of the province. Above all the business community treats any disturbance of the present commercial stability and confidence, and Wharf street shudders at the idea of the trade interests of the province being disturbed by the advent to power of an administration dominated by Messrs. Macdonald, McInnes, Oliver and Henderson. Briefly these are the reasons that have brought about a complete change in political sentiment in Victoria. The result will be seen by the opposition to the government ranks, and the fact that the Conservative party which doubts and fears, and unwise counsels, caused her to lose in 1903. And this is the case in other constituencies in the province. The government will be sustained with a substantial majority.

NOTICE

RAYMOND & SONS

7 PANDORA STREET
Wish to inform their numerous customers that they have in stock full line of
Seth Finch English Enamel and American Onyx Tiles
The Latest Old and New Styles in
Mantels, Full Sets of Antique
Fire Irons and Fenders
Copied from designs that were in use during the 17th century.
We also carry Lane Cement, Plaster of Paris Building and Fire Brick, Fire Clay. Please call and inspect our stock before deciding.

HUB MINE FIRE

Montreal, Jan. 3.—Latest advices are that a fire in the Hub mine in Cape Breton is being quenched. The shaft is growing cooler, and it is hoped that within a very short time the same will be under control. Water is being poured in continually and gangs of men are working night and day.

ARMY STORES BURNED

Portsmouth, Jan. 3.—Fire which broke out last night among the camp and equipment stores caused damage estimated to amount to \$350,000. The entire equipment of an army corps was destroyed. Although the conflagration is under control, masses of smoldering blankets and other stores occasionally break out into fresh flames.

PERSIA'S PARLIAMENT

Tehran, Jan. 3.—The revised constitution which was accepted by the national assembly on Tuesday, gives the assembly control of all financial matters. Matters pertaining to the administration of the provinces may only be discussed by the assembly. The assembly can only be dissolved by the emperor and two-thirds of the senate. The senate is composed of 30 elected and 30 appointed members.

LIFE LOST IN FIRE

Falling Walls in Montreal Kill One Man and Injure Six
Montreal, Jan. 3.—One man killed, six men injured, half a million dollars worth of property destroyed, with two business blocks burned, in the result of a fire which started at 2 o'clock this morning on St. Antoine street.

BANK OF ENGLAND

London, Jan. 3.—The Bank of England rate is unchanged at 6 per cent. The weekly statement of the bank shows the following changes: Total reserve, £969,000; circulation, £20,000; bullion, £218,388; other securities, £230,000; other deposits, £22,325,000; public deposits, £22,000,000; notes, £297,000; government securities, £2,000,000. The proportion of the bank's reserve to liability this week is 33.5 per cent. Last week it was 37.1 per cent.

DOES NOT CARE TO TALK

Joseph Martin, K. C. Has But One Reply to All Political Queries
Joseph Martin, K. C., arrived from Vancouver last evening. His visit to the capital, he says, has no political significance. "It is your intention to be a candidate, or to take any part in the present provincial election campaign?" Mr. Martin was asked by a reporter for the Colonist. "After some slight hesitation he replied, 'I do not care to talk.' " "What is your view of the political situation?" "I do not care to talk." The interviewer asked Mr. Martin with many questions bearing upon the British Columbia politics to all of which he replied: "I do not care to talk."

Seeking something of a "controvertial nature in the endeavor to induce a pronouncement, the reporter asked: "Do you think the country in a prosperous condition?" The well known politician smiled emphatically and repeated, "I do not care to talk."

SOUND ADVICE

POLITICIANS

"MUMM'S THE WORD"

THE ABOVE ADVICE IS FROM THE DIARY OF AN EMINENT POLITICIAN

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The Latest Old and New Styles in
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DAVID SPENCER, LTD.

THE GREAT EMPORIUM OF THE GREAT WEST

Warm Bargains for Cold Days Selected From Spencer's Record JANUARY SALE

Ladies' Underclothing Dept.

(SECOND FLOOR)
A really favorable opportunity presents itself in this Department for Ladies' Fleece-Lined Underwear At prices that must attract and give pleasure, whatever the extent of your investments.
FINE AND HEAVY RIBBED FLEECE-LINED VESTS, today, each..... 50c
colors white and natural, all sizes. On special sale
FINE AND HEAVY RIBBED FLEECE-LINED DRAWERS colors white and natural, all sizes. On special sale today, each pair..... 50c
Ladies' Merino Underwear
HEAVY WEIGHT MERINO VESTS AND DRAWERS all sizes. On special sale today, each..... 50c
Do not miss the above splendid 50c values.

Gents' Furnishing Dept.

Is always alive to the very thing at the right time and at the very sale price.
During the present cold snap do not shiver, do not take chills and invest your cash with doctors and chemists. Just step into this Department and see what capital investments can be accomplished in
Heavy Scotch Shirts and Drawers
HEAVY SCOTCH SHIRTS AND DRAWERS, regular values \$1.00 and 85c. For, each..... 45c
By the way, before your departure from this Department it will pay you to inspect—you will buy—the
Special Ties on sale Today
They consist of Four-in-Hands, Wide Strings, Hook-on Bows and Puffs, all fancy patterns, splendid values. Two for..... 25c
Don't think long or they will all be gone.

The Mantle Department

This Department's particular ambition is to give the very best values just at the very right time at "saving money" prices. Already have their achievements been forcibly exemplified. A limited number only go on sale, in some instances one-third off regular values.

- Today—Ladies' Furs
MINK COLLARETTE with eight tails, regular value \$20.00. On special sale today..... \$13.75
BROWN SQUIRREL TIE, regular value \$19.50. On special sale today..... \$13.75
POSSUM FUR in stole effect, eight tails, regular value \$18.50. On special sale today..... \$13.75
MINK TIES with tails and heads, regular value \$19.00. On special sale today..... \$13.75
WHITE FOXALINE COLLARETTE, regular value \$8.75. On special sale today..... \$4.90
GREY SQUIRREL TIE, 60 inches long, regular value \$9.75. On special sale today..... \$4.90
THIBET STOLE, 60 inches long, regular value \$8.75. On special sale today..... \$4.90

- A saving of from \$4.50 to \$7.50 can be effected today in Ladies' Coats—Tweeds, Broadcloths, Etc.
LADIES' TWEED COAT, three-quarters length, bias back, deep pockets, regular value \$9.75. On special sale today..... \$4.90
LADIES' HEAVY TWEED, brown mixture, with plaid lining, full back, velvet collar, with pockets, double breasted, regular value \$15. On special sale today..... \$7.50
LADIES' LIGHT TWEED, seven-eighths length, plaid effect, double box pleated back with strap at waist, double-breasted, black velvet collar and cuffs, trimmings of stitched straps and black velvet buttons, regular value \$22.50. On special sale today..... \$15.00
BLACK BROADCLOTH COAT, three-quarters length, bias back, double-breasted, collar and cuffs trimmed with narrow silk braid, regular value \$20.00. On special sale today..... \$10.00

A very special line can be found in the LADIES' GLOVE DEPARTMENT
Warm White Wool Gloves, with extra long wrists. On special sale, each pair, 85c and..... \$5.00

Department E, 2nd Floor

Children's Coats—Down to One Half
Children's Coats in white and all colors, regular values \$2.50 to \$4.50. On special sale today \$2.50 and..... \$1.25
Children's White Bear Coats, regular value \$3.50 to \$4.50. On special sale today..... \$2.25

Staple Department

The following goods on special sale today are limited in quantity. The values offered are exceptional at particularly cut sale prices.

- We have the very thing to keep little legs warm in Children's White and Colored
Gaiters
Regular values 25c to 35c. On special sale today, 15c to... 10c
For very warm and dainty wear
Ladies' Golf Jerseys
In white and all colors, regular value \$2.50 to \$5.00. On special sale today, \$2.50 to..... \$1.75
The special sale held yesterday of OVERSHOES for cold feet having been so well appreciated, the BOOT AND SHOE DEPARTMENT has come forward with another attractive line that must clear just as promptly owing to the very special values and sale prices offered in Women's, Misses' and Children's
Overgaiters
Women's Black Felt Overgaiters, on special sale, per pair, \$1.00, 75c and..... 65c
Misses' Black Felt Overgaiters, on special sale, per pair..... \$1.00
Children's Black Felt Overgaiters, on special sale, per pair, \$1.00, 85c and..... 75c
For those indulging in walking, riding, driving or skating these gaiters are especially useful.

- Blankets
A restricted number on sale today
White Wool Blankets, with pink and blue borders, 60x80. On special sale..... \$2.50
Better Quality, with blue border. On special sale..... \$3.50
Very Special Quality Blankets, 60x80. On special sale..... \$4.50
Pure Saxony Wool Blankets, extra fine, with pink and blue borders, 64x84. On special sale today..... \$7.75
Wool Comforters
A few only to clear, with pleasing designs, 60x72. Special today..... \$15.00
Eiderdown Quilts
Very Special Qualities, attractive designs. Special today, \$6.00 and..... \$5.75
Cotton Blankets
Special values in grey and white, with pink and blue border—
Size 10 1/2, on special sale today..... \$1.00
Size 11 1/2, on special sale today..... \$1.25
Size 12 1/2, on special sale today..... \$1.50

If you are Desirous of Securing Unmatched Values at Exclusive Sale Prices

Keep a Vigilant Watch Upon Our Windows and Advertisements From Day to Day

When fatigued rest and refresh yourself in our Oriental Tea Room—3rd Floor
David Spencer LIMITED
We are Just as Particular During Sales as at any other time

VOL. XL

SAMPLE

Absurdity of Government Roads

It has been charged by J. J. Macdonald of the Liberal party, that the present quality of malpractice with the issuance of scrip, giving away the money in this way, which belongs to the absurdity of such a pointed out yesterday. Frawley, minister of public works, explained that it was possible for the government to have done what they had done, but that the details in a transaction. It was those who wished financial buildings, official records in a national assurance course in dealing with only another fact that the opportunity for "groping" crises in the Free those associated with

WORKING Local Liberal-Congregating Their

Although the Liberal-Congregating their attention that city politics, a topic of conversation, and in fact, who people interested. And the returned to power, the municipal of

GRAND TRUNK EAST O

No Chance of Help in Year

Ottawa, Jan. 12. Pacific rail has been able to move year's western grain. This is a per cent of the grand Bay branch is starting to be cleared from the line complete year.

DUKE O

London, Jan. 12. night of the Duke of Balfour, Lieutenant of Great Britain's House of Savoy, in his perilous snow peaks in the Alps. His majesty's life would be a great deal of greater value than that of a King Edward.

ALBERTA

Lethbridge, Jan. 12. speaking of the Alberta legislature, Jan. 24, said: "You know I am coming legislatively since the erection of the legislature, will be quite an enthusiastic day. The re-enacting them under our new strictly new piece of legislation, the proposed order which the province of creating and of regulating possessed no power way. "It is extreme commission appointed the question of a report for the British Columbia yet appointed its representative in the House of Commons. His Honor said and co-operation of the most important an added importance when the institution plastic condition.