

SOCIALISM AND STABILITY.

"Leave well alone," say the supporters of the McBride administration in submitting their otherwise discredited cause to the people. This is intended as a special appeal to the business interests of the province. Is it well for the business interests of British Columbia, or for any section of the people of British Columbia, that the affairs of the province should be handed over to an insignificant band of revolutionaries in order that a government may enjoy in its own peculiar way the fruits of office? We shall again call the attention of business men, and of all men who honestly desire stable government, government that will inspire confidence and promote development, to the statement of Mr. Davidson, one of the Socialists in the late legislature and again a candidate in the constituency of Slocan—a statement that has not been, and cannot be, contradicted, that all bills prepared by the government had to be submitted to the Socialist members before they were brought before the House.

That was the condition that obtained during the past three years, of McBride rule. It is the condition that is going to obtain during the coming four years in case the McBride government were returned again, as it hopes to be returned, with the support of Comrade Hawthornthwaite and as many of his revolutionary colleagues as happen to secure election. We ask if it will be well for the prospects of any interest in British Columbia, for any class in British Columbia, if the fact should be published to the world that the government of the province is dominated by a band of Socialists, who have in the past and will in the future be permitted to pass on all government legislation submitted to the House and dictate whether or not it shall be permitted to pass into statutory enactment? That is the point it behoves the people to consider carefully and to weigh well in their minds.

The fact has been particularly obvious during the course of the campaign that not a single Conservative candidate, not a single Conservative newspaper, has dared to say a word condemnatory of the Socialist propaganda. Comrade Hawthornthwaite has repeatedly given utterance to revolutionary, even treasonable, statements. He has emphatically declared that he and his deluded followers will never be satisfied until the British flag has been replaced on all public buildings by the red flag of anarchy. Conservative newspapers which profess to be of a particularly loyal type, to be just a little superior to their neighbors in their devotion to existing institutions, have had repeated opportunities to express their opinions of Comrade Hawthornthwaite's ravings. But their mouths have been closed—their pens have refused to perform their office. They dared not say a word, because they know the Premier has no hope of continuing in power except under the conditions that have prevailed during the past three years. Yet they plead that "well shall be left alone." Business stability and industrial confidence demand it!

It is not apparent that the future well-being of British Columbia demands that the regime of Socialism through McBrideism shall be brought to an immediate end or a worse thing befall? Is it not imperative upon all thoughtful electors to mark their ballots in the manner that is most likely to restore responsible government, not to speak of honest and clean government, to the province of British Columbia?

IN DESPAIR.

The question is, why did Premier McBride run away? A few days ago he came over to Victoria and surveyed the situation, straightway heing himself over to the Mainland, where he is now booked to address several public meetings on behalf of his candidates. Was the Premier appalled by what his supporters told him in regard to the situation here, or was he called back to Dewdney in the hope of his presence stemming the flood of condemnation that threatens to overwhelm him in his own particular pocket borough? Whatever may have been the cause of the panic that has overtaken Mr. McBride and his supporters, we believe it will be generally agreed that he has not treated either his candidates or his voters fairly, leaving the trivial consideration of courtesy out of the matter entirely.

It will be claimed, of course, that the Premier is ill; that the arduous work of the campaign has strained his physical constitution to the breaking-down point, and that on the advice of his physician he has been compelled to forebear from further active political work. But when he was a couple of days ago the Premier was in good health. Why did he not take advantage of the opportunity, face his constituents here, explain the reasons of his un-

questioned hostility to Victoria, and by his actual presence, if not by the effectiveness of any defence he could make, cheer up the hearts of his dispirited and beaten fellow-members on the Socialist-Conservative ticket? There are two reasonable explanations of his apparently pusillanimous course. He recognized that which is quite apparent to all persons who have followed the course of the campaign here: His presence on the ticket in this city has weakened the hopelessly weak tribe who were nominated by the packed convention or in the forlorn hope of making secure his seat in the Legislature he has gone back to Dewdney to endeavor to counteract the strong personal influence of Mr. Robert Jardine there.

When ten days ago the Times was formed that Premier McBride would not dare to face a Victoria audience during the campaign, and endeavor to show cause why he should receive the support of the electors of the city, we received the suggestion with what we considered to be justifiable incredulity. But that prediction has been amply justified by the course of the Premier. He has indubitably shirked the ordeal. He has dealt with characteristic treachery towards his three colleagues on the Socialist-Conservative ticket who depended on his personal influence (which is admittedly not of much account), and his claimed platform ability (which is confessedly a negligible factor), to help them in the fight. By his action he has in the most compelling fashion admitted the hopelessness of his cause. He has conceded Vancouver Island to the Liberal party, and he has gone over to the Mainland dispirited and a beaten leader in the hope of securing the election of sufficient followers there (with the assistance of the Socialists) to enable him to retain his position on Premier of British Columbia. That is the situation. We ask the electors of Victoria to mark it well and their ballots right. The political situation on the Island represents the political situation in all sections of the province.

A CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S FOLLY. If it be true, as the Premier says, that Mr. Green was the best Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works British Columbia ever had, why has he permitted to resign from the government? Holding such an opinion, surely Mr. McBride will not deny that Mr. Green's prestige as an efficient, honest and honorable administrator would have been of almost inestimable value to the government during the present campaign. And, holding such an opinion, it is quite clear Mr. Green did not resign with the Premier's consent. Having said so much, Mr. McBride should now, in order to clear up the situation completely, tell the public the truth with respect to Mr. Green's retirement. It is quite evident that the whole truth has not been told. The story about pressure of private business is far from satisfactory, because pressure of private business has raised no objections to the release of reserves in localities which promise to be thickly populated simply because it is desirable in the interests of the Indians themselves that they should be removed from the proximity of cities and towns, where their presence, as we know from experience in Victoria, creates problems that are difficult to solve and reach a certain stage.

It has been asserted that the Dominion government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company apropos of this Digby Island reserve question are in collusion for the purpose of getting the better of the province. It is not easy to see how such a thing can be when all the facts are taken into consideration. It is claimed that if the railway company obtained the reserve it might thus detract from the value of the fourth interest in Kalien Island which is inherent in the province according to the provisions of a statute passed in 1896 on the initiative of Mr. Fred Hume, now Liberal candidate in Ymir. Is the covenant of the Anderson-Larsen syndicate, to procure the location of the railway, with all the round houses, etc., which usually go therewith, of so little value that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company can really place the terminals and the stations where it pleases? It will be remembered that at one time the only excuse put forward on behalf of the government for the deal with the band of adventurers was that but for the bargain no one knew where the terminals might be located—that British Columbia might lose them altogether.

However, the explanations and the apologies for this peculiar transaction have been so various and so curious that they need not be considered seriously. If they were not regarded as calling for apologies we should never have had the Digby Island matter placed over against the Kasten Island in order to attempt to distract public attention. And if the bargain between the Indians and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company was examined, we do not see wherein the friends of the government can find any foundation for the claim that they have saved the province millions of dollars. Some of them assert that the refusal of the McBride government to surrender the province's reversionary rights may benefit British Columbia to the amount of millions of dollars. Now we should like to be informed at what date in the future the province is likely to come into this rich inheritance. The province can have no right or title to that land while a mem-

ber of a strong tribe remains in existence. If the tribe remains on its present reserve and the growth of the city of Prince Rupert increases the value of that reserve to millions of dollars, will the Indians of Digby Island be likely to remain as obedient as the Indians of the Songhees, reserve adjacent to the city of Vancouver? The advocates of the cause of the McBride government know that not only has that government not saved the province a cent by its attitude on the reserve question, it has sacrificed millions in its dealings with the Kalien Islanders, and it would have given away property worth millions more if there had not been a barrier in the way in the shape of the statutory provision which retains for the public a quarter interest in all townships.

ON THE RAMPAGE. D. M. Eberts, K. C. is himself again. At a meeting last evening the Socialist-Conservative candidate in Saanich is reported to have said he would prove his opponent to be "either a liar or a coward," and that he wanted everybody to come and hear the fun. If there is one candidate in Saanich in British Columbia to-day, outside of the cabinet ministers, with a torn and tattered political reputation, it is Mr. D. M. Eberts, and he ought to be the last issue such a challenge. He was dismissed in disgrace from a former government, in consequence of revelations affecting his character as a public man. The Premier by whom he is endorsed as a candidate in Saanich to-day was the leader of the party which brought about the political downfall of Mr. Eberts, although it is true Mr. McBride, perhaps because he had a fellow-feeling for a brother Tory in distress, was not very active in prosecuting the case. Doubtless the anomalies in the position of Mr. Eberts as a candidate of the McBride government were the minds of the electors of Saanich, and the probability is that the Premier's powers as a political resurrectionist will not turn out as satisfactory as the friends of the Socialists and Conservative point of view. Probably Mr. Eberts is convinced of this, and that is the reason his normally short temper is again getting the better of his judgment. At all events, if he is wise he will be as discreet in the future as circumstances will permit.

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new compound was many times more active medicinally than the fruit juices. Where eating fruit only helped to keep one well, this compound actually cured disease. To make it more valuable still, this physician added the finest tonic and antiseptic, and then, by evaporating the entire compound to a powder, made it into tablets.

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Notice is hereby given that, thirty days after date, I intend to apply to the Hon. Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works for a special license to cut and carry away timber from the following described lands situated in Barkley District: [Land description follows]

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WEEKLY WEATHER

Victoria Meteorological Service, Feb. 1, 1907.

The weather during this week was and moderately cold throughout the week, with the Lower Mainland and the Victoria Islands, while storm areas which at this time were usually over the island, have been directed toward Oregon and California, and have been passing southward over the coast.

At Dawson the average daily temperature was 23 below zero; on 20th highest temperature, 3 below zero; on 21st lowest temperature, 17 below zero; on 22nd highest temperature, 12 below zero; on 23rd lowest temperature, 7 below zero; on 24th highest temperature, 10 below zero; on 25th lowest temperature, 5 below zero.

LOCAL NEWS

The bank clearings for yesterday were ending yesterday at \$77,222.

Canadian-Australian liner scheduled to sail on Friday next at 5 o'clock for Melbourne.

The 11th Regiment will parade in Victoria on Tuesday next at 11 o'clock, and will be followed by the 20th and 21st Regiments.

The Omnicast & Peace Mining Co. will hold its annual general meeting on Monday next at 11 o'clock.

The arrangements for the show at the Victoria Jubilee Grounds will be made Monday next at 11 o'clock.

In the mixed foursomes tournament on Saturday the score was: C. F. Moore and the musical company arranged to play at the Barnabas church will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 5th, at 8 o'clock.

The contract for building wharf at James Bay for the Steamship Company was let to the General Contracting Co. amounting to \$150,000.

On Friday morning the Chamber will sail from Victoria until 2 o'clock. This change is given by the Lieut-Governor row night.

The funeral of Joseph Male place at Salt Spring Island on Tuesday next at 11 o'clock.

The funeral of George E. Smith will be held in the afternoon of the 13th and 14th of March.

The provincial museum is to receive a black bear shot near Kookeyn and the result will be that there be a splendid specimen added to the collection in the museum.

The seventh annual meeting of the Normal School Association of British Columbia will be held on the 13th and 14th of March.

F. E. Dixon and Capt. T. F. Hamilton of the firm of Harris & London steamship owners, who start the new line from Vancouver, stated on Monday that it was possible that the line would have a touch at that port after the 1st started. In company with the shipping men, Capt. W. M. Dixon, and others, they stated that the firm handling freight there were Capt. W. M. Dixon and others.

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December 11th, 1906.