

THE SITUATION.

British Columbia is to be blessed with the inestimable boon of a straight conservative government. That will be no new experience for the province. We have had nothing else for a dozen or fifteen years, and we have obtained the reward we deserved. British Columbia is where she is to-day because of the firmness of her adherence to Conservative "principles" as exemplified in the policy of a too long line of governors.

The new government will come into power in a manner worthy of the name it bears. It was born in treachery and deceit. Its leader is an unstable as water. He has been heading to every wind that blows and cutting a most miserable figure in the Legislature. He had no part whatever in the defeat of the Prior government. That was accomplished by the men who are now commanded to take their places on the opposition side.

Our Conservative friends have gained a notable victory. They have at their head a man of whom they should be proud. Their own acts should make their hearts swell with pride in the glory of a great achievement. For a few months they will reap where others have sown. The thought of such a great moral and strategic victory should make their righteous bosoms swell with exultation. How they will be able to strut and plume their feathers as they tell the people of the country that they stood and watched the battle from afar—how simple John Oliver and enthusiastic Smith Curtis and their friends smote one member of the government from their seats, only to find when they had rubbed the dust of battle from their eyes that honest Richard McBride, honorable Robert Green, trusty R. G. Tatlow and other birds of the cuckoo kind had appropriated the nests of the vanquished.

While the militant members of the opposition party and the Times have ample reason for expressing disapprobation of the course pursued by the "strong" new leader of the rehabilitated party whose record in British Columbia is as strong as the striking personality of its head, none of us has any reason to grieve at the outcome. We have accomplished that to which we set our energies. One unworthy government has been killed. Its successor has come into existence in a regular, constitutional manner, whatever we may think of the subsequent conduct of its leader. To that extent the situation has been cleared. The battle must now be joined upon clearly defined issues.

GROSSLY IRRREGULAR PROCEEDINGS.

Verily the politicians of British Columbia are a distinct and peculiar class. In manners and customs they are a cut above the fellows who believe in doing all things in decency and order. The statesmen who assume to "control the House" to-day have been so eager to grasp at power under the guise of "party lines" that they have not had time to bestow a minute's thought upon any demands the province may have upon their attention. The one dominant thought is the salvation of the great Conservative party—how to reconcile to the new order of things the many who have been left out in the deal. That is no easy task, as Hon. Richard McBride has no doubt already discovered. But we have no doubt some kind of a peace will eventually be patched up and the loyal Tories of the Interior will be found lined up along with the Colonel and the gang who have been dismissed for various "indiscretions" in support of the veracious and honorable gentlemen who are to-day profiting from the persistent operations of Mr. Oliver and a few of the aggressive Liberals in the Legislature. In the meantime, if Hon. Richard McBride and his exulting strategists can spare a few moments for the consideration of other matters than their good fortune in being temporarily in positions they have secured in dishonor and are bringing into contempt, we might call their attention to the gross irregularity of the proceedings of the House they control. When Colonel Prior was dismissed no announcement of that important fact was made in the Legislature. He was asked by the Lieutenant-Governor to read the letter of dismissal to the members. He refused to do it. It was the ex-Premier's duty to officially and in a regular manner inform the House of what had taken place, to place the members of the Legislature in possession of full information upon a subject in which all the people are interested. The Colonel had so little regard for his own dignity and for the rights and privileges of the people and of the Crown that he churlishly refused to do this. The opposition assumed from the fact that Mr. McBride had been called into the councils of the Lieutenant-Governor that His Honor's former adviser had been dismissed, and through Mr. Green proceeded to "take charge of things." One Minister has been sworn in, and that is as far as the recognized constitutional practice has been complied with. It is presumed—in fact it has been announced—that while the personnel of the Ministers has been decided upon, they will not be sworn in until they have assisted in the passage of supply. Surely there is something grossly irregular in this. It is a recognized principle of all constitutional forms that the King's government must go on. There must be continuity. Is it not laid down by authorities that ministers must hold office

until their successors are appointed? They may not perform any acts of administration, but nominally they are in charge of the departments. If that be the case, what is the position of affairs to-day? Only the successor of Mr. Wells has been appointed. All the other old ministers are in office. In any event, it is clear that the method which has been adopted of securing a majority is altogether indefensible. The Ministers should be sworn in at once and go before their constituents for a preliminary endorsement of the government's policy—if it has any policy save the idiotic declaration that it is in favor of party lines and grab when the opportunity occurs. The evident purpose of the Ministers is to evade the constitutional practice and draw their salaries for four or five months without formally ascertaining the attitude of the electorate towards this new "principle" that has been so suddenly injected into our political life. The fact that it is a "new departure" makes the necessity of regularity but the more imperative. It would not be surprising if the Lieutenant-Governor should draw the attention of another Premier to the haziness of his conceptions of Ministerial responsibility. Perhaps he may call upon Mr. McBride to give his attention to the works of a gentleman named Todd, who is generally admitted to be an authority upon constitutional procedure as applicable to the colonies.

He says: "Whenever the Houses of Parliament are notified that the ministers of the crown have resigned, or have been dismissed from their offices, and that the administration is dissolved, it is customary for them to adjourn over to some future day, until a new ministry is formed. The motion to adjourn upon such an occasion is usually and properly made by one of the ex-ministers, at the request of the person who has been entrusted with the formation of a new ministry. Any further adjournments that may be necessary before the new arrangements are complete should be proposed in a similar way. For, notwithstanding their resignation, the outgoing ministers are bound to conduct the ordinary business of the House, inasmuch as they retain the seals of office, and continue in full possession of their official authority and functions, until their successors are appointed."

Now if the successors of the Prior Ministry have not been appointed they should be. Until they are appointed the old Ministers retain the seals of office and continue in full possession of their official authority and functions. We should like authoritative information upon these matters. It is time the farce was ended.

AN INTERESTING DENOUEMENT.

The line-up of the members of the Legislature after the latest upheaval should be interesting. Will the Colonel turn around and support Mr. McBride, and thus confirm the truth of all the accusations that have been made against the expelled Premier by the members who have been told by his successor that now they have completed the work of lifting him into the saddle they may retire and do some thinking upon the ways and good faith of Tory politicians? (who can no more resist the temptation to grab the honors and emoluments of office by fair means or foul than the leopard can change his spots.) Will Mr. Prentice still insist upon the putting that motion of his that "this House has no confidence in the hon. member for Dewdney"? Will the members who have been fighting so ardently to defeat the government turn around and go to each other hammer and tongs? Or has a set of brand new principles sprung into existence with the creation of this government of true, faithful and honorable gentlemen? Will Mr. Eberts emerge purged and politically reformed under the new deal? There is a wonderful, almost magical, cleansing power about the name Conservative. This is the second resurrection of British Columbia, and, little though it might be expected from the manner in which the great party was raised from the dead, the political millennium must be at hand. Will Mr. Dunsmuir's acts under the new dispensation explain definitely whether he is henceforth to be classed as a Liberal or a Conservative? Hitherto he has been claimed by both parties. Will the Colonel support the man whom it described a few days ago in effect as an infant in capacity and intellectual power? Some extraordinary changes have occurred in the political life of British Columbia, but none quite so revolutionary as that which is proposed by the "Honorable" Richard McBride. And he is not a strong man either—that is, not in character—but he has managed to rank himself pretty "high" in a very brief period.

RICHARD'S GENEROSITY.

After all there is something attractive about the character of what the Colonist a few days ago called the "infantile mind" of the new Premier of British Columbia. Mr. McBride in his ministerial inaugural expressed the deep gratitude and the depths of the obligations he was under to the Liberals who accomplished the defeat of the Prior government and enabled him to attain a power he could never have gained by his own energies or abilities. If his duty to the Conservative party had not pressed so strongly upon him as to obliterate all his sense of honor as a man he would have been pleased to recognize in a substantial manner the debt he owed to his

"Liberal colleagues." That sentence may be interpreted as meaning that if Mr. McBride had been a true man he would have played the part of a man rather than that of a traitor when he was called by circumstances to play a part he is by nature, disposition and capacity, as events have proved, utterly unfitted to play.

But Mr. McBride is not utterly lacking in gratitude. By no means. Speaking in the name of the great Conservative party, he is prepared to grant an unheard-of boon to the Liberals. He will not countenance any such procedure as was adopted in the days when his friends were supreme at Ottawa. Hon. Richard McBride will not pass any franchise act or gerrymander act for the purpose of hampering his opponents, the Liberals of British Columbia. Not at all. He will give them a fair field and no favor—for this once—let the Liberals come out and defeat his government if they can.

Probably it has not occurred to this astute and ambitious leader of a very hungry party that much more is implied than is said in this generous declaration. It is practically a confession that where ever the Conservative party has the power it is not in the habit of meeting its opponents upon fair terms. The gerrymander and disfranchising mood is the normal condition of our delinquent candid friends, the Tories. Mr. McBride is an abnormal development from abnormal conditions. Upon that point there cannot be a great deal of doubt. We would advise the friends of the new leader to seal him up. He is much more impressive in silence than in speech. Besides, he is so prone to say the wrong thing.

The medical men of Victoria, who have gained a wide reputation for their scientific attainments, will be interested in the following from the Scientific American: "M. S. Leduc recently explained before the Academy of Sciences in Paris his method of inducing sleep and anesthesia by electrical currents. He employs an interrupted current in a low resistance circuit, and sleep is induced by gradually augmenting the E. M. F. in the circuit. From further information we have received it seems that the frequency of the current used is from 150 to 200 periods per second. Besides the interrupter, there is also placed in the circuit a milliamperemeter, the period of oscillation of which is much longer than the duration of the interruption of the current. Under these conditions, when the instrument is traversed by an intermittent current the needle undergoes a permanent deviation, which enables the intensity of the currents having the same intermittence and the same duration to be compared. Leduc has experimented with currents of varying degrees of intensity, but those which gave the best results had from 150 to 200 interruptions in the second with a tension of from 12 to 30 volts. The cathode is made of hydropilous cotton impregnated with a solution of sodium chloride of the strength of 0.60 per cent, and covered with a plate of metal. This is placed on the shaven head of the animal to be experimented on, while the anode is placed on the hinder part of the back, which is also shaved. The E. M. F. is increased till convulsions take place, and the animal falls on its side and respiration ceases. The handle of the regulator is then brought backward till respiration returns, and with a certain strength of current, tranquility, ordinary sleep is induced. The duration of the sleep is variable, in many instances lasting for two hours or more without any ill effects upon the subject. The return of consciousness is effected by the removal of the current, and no injurious consequences are said to follow."

Now look out for a great Tory rush to British Columbia! The news that a Conservative government is in power here will travel fast. There are such a number of office seekers out of "employment." The governments of the Dominion and of all the provinces save Manitoba and British Columbia are Liberal. The prairie province is on the eve of an election, and it will soon be Liberal, too. This is the only haven for the "grafters." Watch them pour in in great multitudes!

Seen Wednesday regarding the report published in last evening's Times that the effect that the C. P. R. Company had lately acquired four new lots fronting James Bay and adjoining a property previously owned by the company, Capt. Troup said that what had appeared in print was entirely correct. The vessel as the Princess Victoria was when last it was in Victoria last week on business in connection with the construction of the new wharf, and the offices, sheds, etc., to be erected thereon, and has been instructed to prepare plans for the same. These will shortly be submitted to the company, and if passed on it is understood construction work will be begun without delay. There is a special feature about the location of the property for the purposes referred to, which Capt. Troup pointed out this morning, but which was not herebefore mentioned, that is its sheltered situation from the strongest winds known to frequent this city. 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