

ATTACKING THE FLAG.

Premier McBride's political allies do not appear to have repented of their statements with regard to the substitution of the red flag for the Union Jack. On the contrary, as the frenzy of the conflict grows upon them they become bolder in their revolutionary sentiments. So that the original declaration of Comrade Hawthornthwaite that the first object of the revolutionary propaganda was to tear down the British flag from the parliament buildings in Victoria and substitute therefor the fiery emblem which shall eventually wave over all nations and all peoples must be accepted as the deliberate judgment of the revolutionary Socialism. It is evident, therefore, that the wing of the Tory party which Comrade Hawthornthwaite leads is rightly named. At a meeting held in Vancouver on Friday evening, Comrade Duberly, one of the candidates on the Socialist ticket, in a stirring expression to his political principles also gave expression to something else which may perhaps be accepted as explaining why the comrades are almost unanimously hostile to the Union Jack. Mr. Duberly said: "Now, friends, I don't know if our old Union Jack has made you work, but it certainly has made me work-hard; and I say that the red flag of revolution is the only flag for our freedom." With sorrow we confess it is thus apparent that the comrades are looking forward to revolution in the vain hope that it will free them from the imaginary curse of earning their bread by honorable toil. Some of them know better than to indulge in any such delusions—for the messes. But the leader of Socialism in British Columbia has succeeded so well in his chosen calling that it is not at all surprising there are evidently others who would prefer to earn their living by delivering an occasional speech (for the purpose of "ventilating" their dupes) and sitting and "working" in the legislature than continuing to be producers under a capitalistic system. Now various philosophers at various times—away back in the ages and even in modern days—have told us that only in work and in the consciousness of work well done is true happiness to be found. And it is an absolute fact that this philosophy is justified in the experience of men of the present day—when so many are doing their best to have the sentence suspended in their own cases. Perhaps this inevitable truth accounts for the apparent wretchedness and discontent of so many of the persons who carry the red flag. At the same time we are agreeable to giving them the benefit of the doubt—it may possibly be that the condition of mind referred to is caused by the intolerable burdens which are inseparable from service under the Union Jack, coupled with wrath at the thraldom their fellow-subjects endure almost without protest when they might be happy and free (from labor and everything else that oppresses) under such self-sacrificing leaders as Messrs. Hawthornthwaite, Kingsley (who has just renounced American citizenship in order that he might qualify to represent the cause in the legislature), and shall we say Marcon?

DEFENDING KAIEN ISLAND.

The Colonist cannot understand why the Grand Trunk Pacific people should have conducted their negotiations with the government for the acquisition of Kaien Island through intermediaries; but it intimates that that is of no concern to the public if the bargain was a good one in the interests of the country. That is a very convenient way of disposing of a very disagreeable, not to say unwelcome, matter. It is the only attempt we have ever heard made to explain why the Andersons and Larsen were commissioned by the McBride government to convey the harbor hand townsite of Prince Rupert to the railway company at a profit to themselves of thirty thousand dollars, a profit which would have been much larger if the Grand Trunk Pacific officials had been as easy to work as the government was.

The assertion that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company preferred to conduct their business through intermediaries is intended to create the impression that Anderson & Co. approached the transcontinental railway and were commissioned by the officials of that company to acquire the terminus for them. This is an insinuation we are sure, that Messrs. Hays and Morse will consider anything but complimentary. Whether the Andersons first secured the property and then offered it to the railway company, or whether the Andersons managed to convince the railway company that they had strong connections and could exact special treatment from the government, does not matter a great deal. The important fact from the public point of view is that the Andersons and Larsen were the principals in the transaction. They acquired the land from the government, the government by suppressing all outside knowledge of the order in council for a year or two, until such time as the notorious syndicate had staked most of the public land adjacent to the port at which they knew the terminus would be proved in the most practical manner possible that when the Andersons claimed they had a control of the strings would secure them preferential treatment they were making no vain boast.

Through the government, which has

now assumed full responsibility for the Kaien Island affair—and which it has admitted is indefensible by thrusting away the principal actor in the deal—cannot explain why the terminus was transferred to the Grand Trunk Pacific through two such peculiar intermediaries, the public in general has had a fairly shrewd idea in regard to all that has been going on in the Lands and Works Department since the late Commissioner assumed control of it. Mr. Green has probably been taught a very valuable lesson by his experience.

But although one of the transgressors has been punished in the only manner possible, it will not relieve the others of their responsibility to say that while the business was conducted in a manner that cannot be defended, the province has not suffered at all; that although the price for the land and the waterfront was low, it must be remembered that the government received one-fourth of all the property for the benefit of the public. The government did nothing of the kind. The reserve was made by statute of the legislature. The government could not have given away the portion of the property reserved by statute to the people if it had tried; as it would assuredly have done if its hands had not been tied. Its care for the interests of the people was shown by the manner in which the water frontage was disposed of. Premier McBride points triumphantly to the provision in the instruments of transfer which says that the length of the water front blocks shall not be "less" than one thousand feet as proof of the transcendent wisdom of the government. The blocks may be made from one to five thousand feet in length under this provision, but it was the evident intention to convey the impression on the mind of the Premier that under it the blocks would have to be one thousand feet or less, and that therefore the province would have ample opportunity for the selection of its share.

In whatever light this Kaien Island deal is regarded, whether we look at the peculiar manner of its transfer or at the peculiar agency through which it was transferred; whether we consider the terms upon which it was conveyed to the band by the government or the terms upon which the band conveyed to the railway company, the transaction bears the clear impress of crookedness, dishonesty and intrigue. It is absolutely indefensible, and no man or newspaper imbued by the desire to uphold only that which is of good report in connection with government will attempt to defend it. We cannot expect the ministers upon whom the responsibility for this crime against the people must rest to acknowledge that it was an unclean transaction; but if they are wise, and their organ has any particular desire to see them placed in the smallest possible minority when the new House meets, they will avoid the subject of Kaien Island as much as possible.

FUEL.

Is it not a rather anomalous condition of affairs that practically all of the Pacific Coast, and especially British Columbia, should be suffering because of a fuel famine? Millions of cords of wood standing ready for the saw, the mills throwing aside hundreds of cords of wood quite suitable for fuel daily, the beaches lined with drift wood, plenty of coal down in the bowels of the earth ready to be taken out and applied to all the purposes for which it has been stored up—and yet there is a fuel famine.

The people of Victoria are not suffering at all, we understand, except from apprehension, which is often the only foundation for a state of mental misery. But there are other places in which the temperature has descended beyond its wonted depths, in which the snowfall has been beyond the ordinary, and in which the obstacles to the transportation of fuel have been greater than here. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer of Sunday devotes practically a whole page to the woes of the citizen who has the misfortune to be a householder or who requires wood or coal in his business. It seems that over there the schools have had to be closed, not on account of the cold weather directly, but because no coal could be had to feed the furnaces. Practically the same condition of affairs prevails in all the Sound cities. The population has grown enormously over the border, and the coal mine operators have not paid sufficient attention to the fact or made provision for the increased consumption of coal which might have been expected to be one result of their presence. Down in San Francisco the situation is reckoned so serious that the authorities have ordered that the supplies of the Western Fuel Company shall be taken by force and distributed amongst the public institutions. That action may of course only indicate that the authority who rules in San Francisco is merely desirous of proving his determination to uphold the interests of all the people against the greed of grasping monopolies.

It is proposed to relieve the situation in the southern city and in the northern ones also by bringing steamers loaded with coal from Asia and Australia. The Post-Intelligencer, if it were not hampered by political influences, would probably advocate, as some of its readers have done, the

removal of the duty on coal. That would stimulate trade between this Island and the Sound, and there is no one who will attempt to deny that such stimulation would not be good for both sections. It is quite evident that the removal of this duty will be advocated before a great while. Seattle needs our coal worse than we need her money. If she ever hopes to become a great manufacturing center she must have the best fuel procurable in addition to other things, or she will never be able to compete successfully with manufacturing cities which have such advantages. The best time to agitate for the removal of the duty is now, because it will be a long time before Congress can be persuaded to act. Mr. Root, we are told, is going to Ottawa to endeavor to straighten out some things that have gone crooked in the relations between the United States and Canada. The Sound people should give him a hint that reciprocity in coal would be of great advantage to the Pacific Coast states. We candidly confess we do not believe our members will ever think of such a simple way of relieving the fuel famine. They are tyrannized over by the tariff, and the more trouble and inconvenience they and all who have business or social relations with them are put to but deepen their admiration for it.

A SIGNIFICANT COMBINATION.

Premier McBride announced some time ago that he would have candidates in every constituency in the province. And the latest information is that he will, if he is forced to press every civil servant in the government pay into his political service. It has just occurred to us that the "wee mannie" who manipulated the strings of the money bag so successfully in the Alberni bye-election has not yet been put up as a candidate. Perhaps the reason for that is that there are no "hooked boroughs" in general elections. At the same time it is well to remember that one of the candidates placed in the field, normally in the interests of the government, are not to be taken seriously. Many of them have been put up in the interests of the Socialist wing of the party. Notably is this the case in Nanaimo, where Comrade Hawthornthwaite, who in the late House represented a minority, is in imminent danger of losing his seat. The Comrade has not been able to explain to his constituents why a representative whose political principles are understood to be opposed to the alienation of all the wealth of the country for the benefit of private and wealthy corporations, whom the Socialist ranks also, and they are given to insinuating that the Comrade has better and more substantial reasons for his extraordinary votes. However, these are matters the Comrade can doubtless explain satisfactorily to his own conscience. The practical point is that he has declared the McBride government is good enough for him, that the government considers him good enough for it, and that the two patriotic institutions are going to work the province in partnership.

THE "MACHINE" IN KASLO ALSO.

Isn't it refreshing, not to say edifying, to read the daily references in the McBride government organs to the operations of the Liberal "machine"? We have already pointed out the manner in which the McBride "machine" imposed its will upon the Conservatives of Victoria by packing the convention and deftly disposing of the political ambitions of such sincere and tried but deluded Conservatives as Messrs. McPhillips, Helmeck, Beckwith and Jay. As we have said, the "machine" ticket is returned to power again it shall have behind it a force that will not balk at any such deals as the Kaien Island affair or the Columbia & Western steal. It suspects that there is not a farmer in Saanich who could be depended upon to record his vote in support of any such transactions, and hence Mr. Eberts, a man after its own heart, has been put up as the candidate of the McBride government.

The performance which looks so coarse and unworthy of the fine hand of the late Chief Commissioner and his friend the Premier when examined at close range is being repeated in other parts of the province. We doubt not we know it has been carried out in the honorable gentleman who has been compelled to retire temporarily in order that he may give all his time and attention to his private affairs. Do not the peculiar operations of the "machine" suggest to the public that there

the hero of Kaien Island is attending to with assiduity now that he has been set free? The first thing to which Mr. Green gave his attention was the placing of a candidate in Kaslo. Who is the nominee there against Mr. John Keen? None other than the deputy of Mr. Green when he was Chief Commissioner, Mr. Neil McKay. Mr. Green was urged to accept the nomination himself, we are told, but "private business" of which no man knows anything prevented him from entering the fight. But he had brought a candidate with him who would do just as well, one who was thoroughly familiar with all the details of the department and who could be depended upon not to reveal anything that would be creditable to the administration of his wily chief. Mr. Green put up Mr. McKay, and his nominee was of course accepted without a word of protest.

The least likely thing in the world is that Mr. McKay will be successful. But there are doubtless strong reasons from a McBride and Green point of view why he should be. It is a desperate game that is being played, and all the resources and campaign funds that can be spared from other sections of the province will be brought into play in Kaslo to accomplish the defeat of Mr. John Keen. It is essential that no additional light shall be thrown upon the manner in which the administration of the Lands and Works Department has been carried out. The inference is that there are things hidden from the public eye that if revealed would by comparison make the Kaien Island and the Kitimat transactions appear to be "good bargains and in the interests of the country." If Mr. McKay should be elected he will either become Chief Commissioner himself or make way for the honorable gentleman who has been compelled to retire temporarily in order that he may give all his time and attention to his private affairs. Do not the peculiar operations of the "machine" suggest to the public that there

must be good reason for a thorough investigation into the affairs of the Lands and Works Department? Do they not furnish good circumstantial evidence of the fact that there is something significant behind the panic that prevailed in the government when, after it had issued circulars calling the House together, it suddenly countermanded the order, "fired" the Chief Commissioner and dissolved the legislature? We believe it will be generally agreed that the situation is an extraordinary one. But the electorate is becoming thoroughly alive to the significance of the panic and the desperation of the straits of the administration, the tide which is running strongly against the government in all parts of the province, and notably on the mainland, will gather greater force, and we predict that the ultimate result will be the greatest political landslide in the history of government in British Columbia.

The Colonist has at last ventured to say that the Kaien Island deal was "a good business transaction from a public point of view." If Prince Rupert becomes a great city the provincial treasury will be enriched by millions of dollars. This has reference to the statutory portion of the townsite that the government fortunately could not sell for a dollar an acre. But supposing that one-quarter of Kaien Island townsite should at any time in the future enrich the provincial treasury by millions of dollars, how many billions will the three-quarters conveyed first to the Andersons and Larsen and finally to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company place in the pockets of the company?

The ground squirrel is the only inhabitant of this part of the earth that was thoroughly prepared for the weather. Warned by instinct—a far safer guide than reason—that something was going to happen this winter, we no-

ticed that he was a very busy little bundle of nimbleness during the fall, cutting down and laying in store great numbers of fir cones. Such provender would perhaps be rejected by any other of the native animals or birds of British Columbia; but the ground squirrel knows the parts that fit into his bill of fare, and he will not suffer during the cold spell.

With reference to the Mayoralty, a correspondent of the Times, S. Billings, points out that some person named Bittancourt alleges Mr. Paterson has not fulfilled pledges made to the people of the Islands constituency. Mr. Billings, simple man, appears to believe the word of this gentleman Bittancourt should be accepted as a sufficient reason for the rejection of Mr. Paterson. We are not of that opinion, but as briefly as possible we have given expression to the views of Mr. Billings.

Excellent sign of the times are the prominence given to questions affecting industrial workers and to moral issues. Candidates must stand for what is best in both public and private life, or they will not be elected. Doubtful men standing for doubtful issues are generally speaking unpopular.

By reason of having a "dub" of a government like that led by Premier McBride the province to-day is paying 6 per cent. on a million dollar loan. Even Victoria local improvement debentures only carry 4 per cent., and they sell at par.

A meeting has been called by the Victoria West Municipal Voters' Association on Tuesday evening next at 8.15. The gathering will be held at Semple's hall and the candidates for the mayoralty, aldermanship and school boards are invited to attend. Ladies especially are invited.

City Engineer Topp is on the sick list, being confined to his home in consequence of an attack of a gripper.

INFLUX OF INVESTORS.

Many Arrive by Charmer Last Night and Report Hundreds Coming—Satisfied With Victoria.

The real influx of Northwesterners commenced yesterday. Close upon 100 people from the prairie provinces stepped from the steamer Charmer last night.

They bring news of hundreds who will arrive during the coming week. They tell of how Victoria is gradually becoming the Mecca of all their hopes. But the first question which they ask is, "What about real estate?" For they have come, although ostensibly to escape the rigors of the winter, in reality to invest in homes and property here.

The present is, in many cases, only a transient visit. A viewing of the land, in the spring time they will return to the middle west, and when this year's crops are in and disposed of very many of the present visitors will return here and settle down for the rest of their lives.

During the next few weeks the real estate agents are anticipating a busy time. Up till 11 o'clock at night many of the offices are open, while the agents are hard at work drawing up their lists of property in an attractive form.

The new comers, even in the brief few hours they have been here, express the utmost satisfaction with Victoria. It is not too much to say that their hopes have been more than realized. They are full of optimism in their search for fruit acreage and other property, and are assured of finding out for themselves that Vancouver Island is justifiably called by the name of "The Golden Island of the Pacific."

NICOLA COAL.

Company With Alex. Pauls as Engineer Is Mining From Properties.

Work on the Nicola Coal & Coke Company's property, under the superintendence of Alex. Pauls, its engineer, is going ahead rapidly, says the Nicola Herald. Coal is being taken out and quite a large shaft is being found for it in the valley. Under the present conditions the price seems reasonable and is really cheaper than cordwood, and it is only a question of time before this fuel will be used exclusively in the valley. Trial of the coal for steam purposes is being made on the locomotives running on the local line, and so far the results are satisfactory. Just as soon as the weather permits it is the intention of the C. P. R. to put in a spur to the mine, which will allow the coal being handled much cheaper than at present. The company are going ahead with their buildings and three ready-made houses are on the ground now waiting erection.

DAVID SPENCER, Ltd.

THE GREAT EMPORIUM OF THE GREAT WEST

A FURTHER MUSTER OF BARGAINS!

FOUR ADDED TO TO-DAY'S SPLENDID INAUGURATION!

In Each Department Values and Prices Are Unanimously Voted a Record!

ON SALE TO-MORROW

Children's Bearskin Coats
A limited number of these very warm and attractive wearing coats are placed on sale after 8.30 a.m. to-morrow, at, each coat \$2.50
Regular Values From \$4.50 to \$8.50.

Here is a Direct Gift of \$6.00! Be Sure and Come Early and See Other Goods on Special Sale in Department E, Second Floor.

TWO 50c SPECIALS:
Fancy Neck Scarves Down to One-Third
Very pretty and dainty neck scarves in silk, chiffon, lace, etc., actual values \$1.50, on special sale to-morrow 50c

Children's Bonnets and Hats Down to One-Seventh
A few dozen to clear, stylishly trimmed and plain, regular values \$1.00 to \$3.50, on special sale to-morrow 50c

There will be much commotion in the
Lace Department
To-morrow after 8.30 a.m.

Valenciennes and Torchon laces go on sale; values down in some instances to one-fourth.

Values 35c. to 50c. per yard, special on Tuesday 15c
Values 25c., 35c. and 40c. per yard, special on Tuesday 10c
Values 10c., 15c., 20c. and 25c. per yard, special on Tuesday 5c
Values 50c., 75c. & \$1 per doz. yards, special on Tuesday 35c
Values 50c. to 25c. per dozen yds., special on Tuesday 10c

You will secure some splendid bargains by coming early.

Vigilantly watch our windows, our advertisements, and above all, our system of giving you Unapproachable Values at Exclusive Sale Prices!

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Hold Fast to Your Resolutions for the New Year! Do Not Put Off Until To-Morrow What You Can Better Accomplish To-Day-In the

Decorating and Painting of Your Properties

Remember We Do House Decorating and Painting

And it is cheaper, more effective and more satisfactory to have your Decorating and Painting executed by the LARGEST BUSINESS ENTERPRISE IN THE WEST! Capital wields the greatest power, and therefore produces the Best Labor, the Best Materials at the Lowest Possible Price for Efficiency! Send for Estimates. They cost you nothing! But—Save You Most.

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Safest Medicine Women's Complaints

Women certainly do themselves. They hard-over-tax their—and then wonder suffer with diseases to their sex. Most cases of female start when the liver is inactive—the kidney—and the skin not. Poisons, which show the system by these are taken up by and inflame the female organs.

Fruit-a-L

FRUIT LIVER TABLE remove the CAUSE of diseases. Fruit sweeten the stomach the bowels move every day—strengthen kidneys—improve the of the skin—and the blood. "Fruit-a-L" take away the ing headaches, backaches, down pains, and make the intensified, with tonic and added vitamins—purely from Fruit-a-L. Ottawa.

Local News

A chimney blaze on Esplanade caused the fire department run shortly before midnight. No damage was done.

The monthly meeting of Andrew's Society will be held at William Wallace hall on night.

Rev. S. J. Thompson will "Law, Courtship and Marriage" Metropolitan Methodist church room on Monday evening.

R. H. Kneeshaw will lead Chatham street, near Cook 7.30 p.m. to-morrow. Subject: "Social Unfoldment." All are invited.

The nominations for the election of mayor, aldermen, trustees for the present year place in the city hall on Monday noon to 2 p.m. A meeting will be held in the North Ward school evening on behalf of T. W. On Wednesday evening, at 8 general meeting of all candidates will be held in the council chamber at the city hall.

At the Royal Jubilee tomorrow afternoon at 7.30 p.m. to-morrow. Subject: "Social Unfoldment." All are invited. Vocal solos will be rendered.

THE FA

Is very careful about her and gives it a sun bath to sour it will taint the butter. In the stomach and digestive processes which are almost apparent then that if this is put into it?

The evil of a foul stomach and the foul breath cause of blood and the dissem. Pierce's Golden Medical sweet. It does for the stomach—absolutely R. In this way it cures bloated sores, or open eating the bad blood.

To aid in healing old sores apply Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery to purify the blood.

Dr. Pierce's All-Healing Salve cleanses and pain relieving, stings the bad odors arising purifying, or running, sore, them in the best possible of healing.

The "All-Healing Salve" is dressing for all open, running, purifying, Sores or Ulcers, open wounds, cuts and sores unrepresented.

If your medicine dealer does not have the "All-Healing Salve" in 50 cents in postage stamps to Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., and receive it by return post.

In treating all open sores, boils carbuncles and other skin diseases, the "All-Healing Salve" is important that Dr. Pierce's Medical Discovery be taken to purify the blood and there the cause of the trouble. If blood that the great battle of to be fought. The ulcer an are simply the scarlet flowers with roots running down into. These roots must be eradicated disease will break out afresh. Medical Discovery" cleanliness of all foul and poisonous accumulations of the dead and waste and thus purifies the entire blood. Disease in the flesh must die it is no longer fed by the "Golden Medical Discovery" cures disease in the flesh by cause in the blood.

If your blood is bitter, nasty, in your mouth, coated to breathe are weak and easily depressed and dependent, your head aches, your face is shining, or you are suffering with indigestion, or your bowels, sour rising after eating and poor these symptoms, or any of number of them, indicate that suffering from biliousness, lazy liver with the usual accompaniment of dyspepsia and flatulent gas.

The best agents known to science for the cure of the above ailments are as follows: Writings of leading teachers, Honors of all the schools, and practical have been skillfully and judiciously combined in D.