

NOW BEFORE THE ELECTORS

The Rival Local Candidates Expound Their Views Before a Great Public Gathering.

Attitudes in Regard to Various Political Questions—Mr. Curtis, Ex-M. L. A., Speaks.

One of the largest audiences that has ever gathered in Rossland assembled at Miners' Union hall last night to hear J. A. Macdonald, Hon. A. S. Goodeve and Smith Curtis on the political issues of the day. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Rossland Liberal association, and President R. W. Grigor occupied the chair. The audience was thoroughly representative, and there was quite a sprinkling of ladies in the hall.

The meeting was the first of its kind held in Rossland during the present campaign. Both candidates had made brief speeches at the time of their respective nominations, but neither had expressed himself in detail as to his political beliefs until last night.

As was anticipated, Mr. Macdonald took the Liberal manifesto for his chief text. He explained its objects in detail and went into a close and succinct reasoning based on the broad question of good government. He spoke earnestly and honestly and evinced deep interest in the serious responsibilities that confront a man whose sole ambition is to do his whole duty to his constituency and the province without fear or favor; as one who was determined to devote his brains and time to the salvation of the country from the high plane of patriotism and true statesmanship; as one who had no personal axe to grind; as one who was fully competent to discharge the duties of a legislator and an administrator with credit to himself and the people whom he would represent. Rossland audiences have heard many political speakers of distinction—men who are versed by long experience in the arts of oratory and the wiles of politics, but it is an unquestionable fact that never before have they listened to greater earnestness and witnessed more sincerity, directness and simplicity than was exhibited by Mr. Macdonald last night.

Hon. Mr. Goodeve made an excellent address from the standpoint of a politician seeking votes from a not too intelligent audience, but it is questionable whether his remarks will bear a critical analysis from the viewpoint of statesmanship. Mr. Goodeve was there to win votes. But in order to do so he had to speak as a statesman, as a member of a government voicing not only his personal sentiments but also those of his colleagues on every important question of the day. This much was expected by the assemblage, and the expectation was reasonable because a new departure has been made in the method of appealing to the electorate. With straight party government in view, the people want to know what may be expected from each party. Without this knowledge it is impossible to vote intelligently. Furthermore, it would be the veriest folly to place men in power to do as they pleased and wholly regardless of pre-election pledges. In all candor, yet with due respect to Mr. Goodeve, it must be said that he did not come up to the general expectation.

The Miner has repeatedly urged both parties to make a clearly defined pronouncement of policy. At the same time it has suggested to each the dire necessity of enunciating a declaration of principles that would free British Columbia from the blight of incompetency and corruption in the legislative assembly and the civil service. The idea of personal prejudice or individual antagonism has ever been religiously relegated to the distant background.

There can be no question but that the humble plea of this journal has borne good fruit in more than one instance. Its insistence on a more adequate fiscal policy and a more equitable system of taxation—the first raised by any newspaper in this province—has resulted, in Rossland at least, in both candidates giving recognition to the same. The Miner's campaign for the opening up of reserved East Kootenay coal lands has become the premier question with both Mr. Goodeve and Mr. Macdonald. Each candidate has declared for the total exclusion of undesirable Oriental immigration for more or less the same reason. But neither has promised to adjure the pernicious practice of cash railway subsidies. Mr. Macdonald has gone Mr. Goodeve one better in the matter of "reserves" on all crown lands, but both are extremely vague about how the several state departments should be administered.

In all fairness to Mr. Goodeve, it must be remembered that his address last night is the first of its kind in this constituency since has been taken into the cabinet. His eleventh-hour appointment and his lack of familiarity with the responsibilities of his new position have not allowed him to speak with the fullest authority; nevertheless, that is no reason why he should not be more explicit when simply his personal views are urgently demanded. It is to be hoped that he will remedy this shortcoming before the close of the campaign. It would certainly gain him strength to do so, inasmuch as he would thereby inspire a confidence that does not now exist.

After a few introductory remarks, President Grigor introduced J. A. Macdonald, who opened the meeting.

MR. MACDONALD SPEAKS.

Mr. Macdonald opened by railing a lie that had come to his ears. It had

elsewhere in the Dominion he had no interests whatsoever. His professional practice brought him into touch with all the industries of the country, and he could speak of these with a good deal of authority. He had never, like his opponent Mr. Goodeve, had any public position, and in this respect he could claim the advantage of Mr. Goodeve. (Laughter and applause.) As mayor of Rossland, Mr. Goodeve had sold the only important revenue-producing asset of the city of Rossland ever owned—the electric lighting plant. Mr. Macdonald characterized the conferring of a portfolio upon Mr. Goodeve as a bribe to the electors of Rossland, and he declared that he could not otherwise succeed. It was an insult to the community to throw it such a sop as a fortnight before the election, and he did not believe the community would be seriously deceived as to the motive in the matter.

The address concluded with an iteration of the Liberal candidate's reason for entering the fight, which was a desire to assist in bringing about the better condition of government in the province that was so urgently needed. Warm applause was accorded Mr. Macdonald as he resumed his seat.

MR. GOODEVE'S ADDRESS.

Hon. A. S. Goodeve was greeted with considerable applause when he was introduced by Chairman Grigor, and made one of his characteristic speeches. Mr. Goodeve stated that the party now in power in this province wanted to recognize the possibilities of the Kootenays and was willing to do all in its power to make it grow. For that reason they had honored the section by appointing the speaker minister of education and provincial secretary (Applause). Mr. Goodeve denied that his aim, as stated in The Miner, was appealing to the country without a clean-cut policy. In attempting to outline the policy of the government Mr. Goodeve said in reference to the coal lands of South Eastern Kootenay that Mr. McBride did not deny that he voted to give these lands to the Canadian Pacific railway, but it was under a misapprehension of the facts. Mr. Wells was in charge of the lands and works department and reported to the council in favor of disposing of the lands, believing that Mr. Wells was making an honest report, he agreed with his colleagues in favor of the adoption of the report. "He did not look at the report," "He did not see one in the audience," "but on his return from a trip which he made to the north when he had found out the actual conditions of affairs," he resigned his office, and was replaced by Mr. Curtis and defeated the government on this very issue (cheers).

In regard to the taking up of coal land he declared that he could not tell from what Mr. Macdonald had said on the question what his position on it was. The morning after the speaker received the nomination he was requested to define his position on the question, and he absolutely refused to state what it was until he had inquired into it. After inquiry and consideration he said he came to the conclusion that it was the duty of the government to grant licenses to those filing on coal lands, where the law was complied with, and he pledged himself to do so.

Next Mr. Goodeve went on to describe how he had been induced to accept a portfolio, and how he told Premier McBride that he had pledged himself on one or two questions, and especially his position on the coal lands. Mr. McBride stated that he agreed with him; that all who had statutory rights should be given these lands. In relation to the miners, doctors and other professional men, he said that he had taken up the water deal, and declared that the price of water had been cut in two since the city acquired the plant and that the city was making \$1000 per month on water. Mr. Goodeve also took to himself the credit of cutting in half the price of electric lights, but did not explain why the electric light plant was not purchased with the water works. Mr. Goodeve next took a jocular turn and stated that Mr. Curtis had given him 13 questions to answer concerning proposed legislation, and yet Mr. Curtis had been a member of the legislature for a considerable period and had not passed one of these laws.

In regard to the eight-hour law Mr. Goodeve evinced a change of heart, for he said he believed that the law had been of benefit to the workmen of the province and was here to stay.

THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM.

Next he referred to the finances and stated that the province, although it has a revenue of \$2,000,000 per annum, has an annual deficit of about \$500,000. He made the astonishing statement that this condition of affairs was due to the fact that heretofore there have been no party governments. The Conservative convention at Revelstoke a year ago declared that party politics were necessary for the well being of the commonwealth and since then this idea had been concurred in by the Conservatives and the Liberals. But he failed to show any action taken by which remedial conditions might be expected. The audience wanted some pronouncement on this all-important question with intense expectancy, but was given no comfort, and murmurs of dissatisfaction were to be heard all over the hall. If Mr. Goodeve had expressed a willingness to make the big dividend-paying corporations pay their fair share of taxation, and so relieve the burden on the masses, he would

THE COAST-KOOTENAY ROAD.

Touching on the Coast-Kootenay railway, Mr. Curtis stated that before the road could be started the promoters were required to deposit a bond of \$100,000. If the road was now to proceed this bond must have been put up, but the fact had never been announced. He would ask Mr. Goodeve as a member of the government to state for the benefit of the meeting when and where the money had been deposited. Mr. Goodeve evaded the direct question by stating that the understanding on which the McBride government took office absolutely prevented it entering into any contracts affecting railways or other important business. Mr. Curtis retorted that it was evident no money had been put up and that the statement as to the commencement of work on the Coast-Kootenay line was manifestly a misrepresentation of the rank and file. The government ought to go to some responsible party or corporation, arrange for the construction of this much-needed road, and then appeal to the country on the platform of the arrangement thus affected. Instead the McBride government had never turned off any guarantee whatever as to the construction of roads.

RAMPANT MISREPRESENTATION.

He would demonstrate to the satisfaction of every auditor that Mr. Goodeve in his address just preceding had been guilty of studied and intended misrepresentation on certain points, and that on still other questions he had been equally guilty of misrepresentation, although he believed Mr. Goodeve in the latter instances was not so much untruthful as woefully ignorant of the events of British Columbian politics. It was a remarkable exhibition for a minister of the government to stand before an intelligent audience and make misstatements after misstatements with an affected air of candor and honesty such as Mr. Goodeve had employed.

First as to the alleged honor done the city through Mr. Goodeve's appointment. There was the office and here was the man! (Pointing to the Premier McBride.) Why didn't you bring the two together in June last? Instead, he dangled the portfolio in the air until they deemed the juncture opportune to throw it where it would accomplish the greatest good. It was concluded that Mr. Goodeve was the weakest candidate and that he needed the honor and the Japs underground in his colleries and as many more on the surface workings. Truly the Conservatives had a remarkable mix-up in the ranks so far as Asiatic legislation was concerned.

Mr. Goodeve had manifested a desire to avoid answering the queries emanating from the provincial Mining Association of B. C., a spirit he regretted to see. Honest and straightforward men didn't attempt to dodge such issues.

On the issue of compulsory arbitration Mr. Goodeve again sought to dodge, while Mr. Macdonald had manfully gone on record. The speaker was a firm believer in the doctrine of compulsory arbitration and would one day if permitted make a campaign in the country on this one topic.

MR. GOODEVE'S IGNORANCE AGAIN.

In his reference to Asiatic legislation Mr. Goodeve again evidenced deplorable ignorance. The legislation in question applied only to Japanese, and was disallowed at Ottawa on Imperial grounds. The measure was re-enacted, but was vetoed against the re-enactment—Dunsmuir, McPhillips and other Conservatives. The Liberals succeeded in passing a prohibitive headtax against the bitter opposition in the senate at Ottawa of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, the Conservative leader. Dunsmuir, a Conservative ex-premier of the province, had wired the statement at Ottawa when the legislation re Chinese was under consideration, that the passage of the headtax would be disastrous to the business interests of British Columbia. McBride's candidate in Victoria—Joe Hunter—was the liege henchman of Dunsmuir, and the latter employed 200 Chinamen and Japs underground in his colleries and as many more on the surface workings. Truly the Conservatives had a remarkable mix-up in the ranks so far as Asiatic legislation was concerned.

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MR. CURTIS'S FISCAL POLICY.

The speaker next outlined what would be the fiscal policy of his government, the dominant feature of which, he said, would be to keep the revenue within the expenditure, which is the same as saying that two and two make four. One of his plans was to clear the civil service list of certain useless employees in this way save from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year, but no particulars were forthcoming. Mr. Goodeve seemed to have got his fiscal and railway policies somewhat mixed. Another was to get better terms from the Dominion government in the matter of provincial subsidies, and it is proposed to agitate along this line till justice is secured. But Mr. Goodeve did not say how.

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

The speaker attacked the Liberal policy in regard to Chinese and Oriental exclusion by saying that the Liberals of the Federal government refused to let the British Columbia exclusion law after it had been passed by the legislature.

"Because it was unconstitutional," said Dr. Sinclair.

"Then," continued Mr. Goodeve, "they passed a law putting a head tax on each Chinese of \$500, but aided the large corporations by putting off the same until effect of the act until January, 1904. He lauded the position of the McBride government on the Chinese question by telling how the man who employed light plant matter in Rossland, and who was glad to correct the error. It was a fact nevertheless that Mr. Goodeve was elected and the speaker had worked in his interests privately and publicly on the pledge that if elected he would purchase the electric light plant. In this Mr. Goodeve had utterly failed to fulfill his pledge and had permitted a valuable franchise to be lost to the municipality.

In respect to the Columbia & Western land grant Mr. Goodeve was guilty of misrepresentation, though he would concede that the Conservative candidate was probably not aware of what he was talking about. The fact was that when the cabinet decided to convey the disputed East Kootenay coal and oil lands to the Canadian Pacific Mr. Wells was not in the city, but Mr. McBride was, and he attended the cabinet meeting at which the decision was arrived at and made no protest. The least that Mr. McBride could be charged with was deplorable ignorance of the resources of the country and negligence in the discharge of his duty as a minister.

ABOUT RAILROADS.

Mr. Curtis then challenged Mr. Goodeve to state whether in enunciating the policy of the McBride administration on land grants to railroads he spoke authoritatively for the government. Mr. Goodeve responded in the affirmative, stating that the Conservative government was unalterably opposed to such grants, preferring to aid desirable railway propositions by cash bounties upon an assurance of control of rates. Mr. Curtis then proceeded to ask why the province should give up cash, the people's money, without receiving a share in the railroads. The Liberals were absolutely opposed to land grants and would give cash bounties in lieu, but they would insist upon bonds bearing interest on the start. Dunsmuir, the greatest land-grabber and promoter in the province, had consented to such an arrangement, but Mr. Goodeve's colleagues stood for giving away the people's money without demanding the quid pro quo that experience had shown could be procured for the asking.

WORST OF ALL.

The greatest misrepresentation of all was when Mr. Goodeve told the electors that the McBride government was prepared to inaugurate the railway policy that would lead to the construction of 2000 miles of railway in the province at once. To warrant such a statement a contract must exist, but the McBride government was keeping secret. He would ask Mr. Goodeve if any such contract existed. Mr. Goodeve was understood to say that he would reply at his meeting Monday night. Mr. Curtis affirmed that no such contract existed and that James J. Hill, if he contemplated railway building, would build whether a Liberal or Conservative government was returned. He then asserted, with details, that railway building in the province had been blocked from year to year by the Conservatives.

THE EX-MEMBER'S ADDRESS.

Smith Curtis, ex-M. L. A., was felicitously introduced by the chairman, who characterized Mr. Curtis as among the very ablest men of the province.

CITY

(From The Miner) Major VanBusk had a force of men day at the "Falls" strengthening the developed a tender pairs will probably be entirely.

J. F. Smith, solicitor arrived in the city the commission for the civil actions Wright and Direct the default London action. Mr. Smith interests of defense.

Word was received of the death at the Boundary of Arch known miner an chute was being sh falling rock crushed Deceased owned the Summit camp, and was popular through

R. W. Hinton had a connection with the with which he has some time as a lawyer the purpose of development to the west of the Le R Two, contractor. George Word, will be the chancie of the Le R

Colonel Jack Egan Miner staff for several years ago Colonel headquarters at Seattle identified with business and in the incidents of the persons and is in ex spirts.

George W. Urquhart Burns & Co.'s business the distinction of his first bear of the sea happened across by Point mine yesterday a small brown tips and weighed a ment today.

Yesterday about imens from the Rossland exposition downtown. Mayor Dean section of the same were particularly assignment will be Among the mines Centre Star, Nickel Le R Two, White Ro and Gian, sections of diamonds also dispatched, with tributed as souvenir management desires to have the ed to Victoria on the Nelson exhibit ment of the Victoria ing made a request

(From Friday) The Tennis club hold its annual banquet on the evening of the

William Harrigan Poplar creek. He has some collection of carrying considerable gold from a claim terested.

The commission to the city of the Wright will convene J. Nelson will officiate under the high court of England.

A number of Rossland the Nelson fair took traction being too crose match. Had a ace of good weather would have been num

City taxes continue well at the city hall rush of taxpayers until next week, who payers will endeavor of the substantial order the statute to the to September 30th.

The last of the st mains are fast van have been razed, and a team was hitched granite used in the tests, and it was hat corner of Spokane s avenue.

Rev. A. Strotzky, ton, is in the city. Strotzky has been elstoke conducting the Slavs of those minister to any Slav cated in Rossland, for Trail to continue

Clyde M. Eye, su War Eagle-Centre spent yesterday at the site for the plant. Preliminary way, and this will es, as soon as the completes the spur line to the mill site

Yesterday was an the Canadian Pacific umbra river. An o loads of War Eagl went into the ditch tion, wrecking the dumping the ore a of way. The moven balance of the week ed in some measur a freight train went so. No person was of the wrecks.