

63 VICTORIA, A. 1900

*(Telegram, in cipher.)*

VICTORIA, B. C., April 12, 1900.

Hon. R. W. SCOTT,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Physical impossibility to hold election before May 10, but by that time lists will be revised by imperative direction of statute, and election cannot then be held on present lists. Application and effect of Provincial Election Act, section eleven, forty-seven, forty-eight and fifty-two and Provincial lists amendment Act one eight nine nine, eight nine and eleven.

THOS. R. McINNES.

*Strictly confidential.*

OTTAWA, April 13, 1900.

Hon. T. R. McINNES,  
Victoria, B. C.

MY DEAR McINNES,—Personally I fully appreciate all the difficulties you have had to encounter in the formation of a stable Government, but the judgment expressed here is that with a Legislature so recently elected you should have endeavoured to form a Government out of the material in the House. Provincial Legislatures do not necessarily divide on party lines and a coalition seemed possible. Then there is a very strong opinion here that it was unconstitutional to permit so long a time to elapse before completing the personnel of the Government and appealing to the electors, particularly as so many of your advisers are new and untried men.

At the instance of the Privy Council I have wired you for an explanation of the delay in dissolving and in calling the new House. As the lists were revised last fall it seemed indefensible to postpone the elections for new lists.

The communications passing between the Government and yourself are sure to be called for, and therefore, they must not be addressed to me confidentially as any letter marked private or confidential does not go on file, and this letter of course must be treated as confidential and destroyed.

Yours truly,

R. W. SCOTT.

VICTORIA, B.C., May 4, 1900.

To Hon. R. W. SCOTT,  
Secretary of State, Ottawa.

Administered oaths of office this evening to John C. Brown, of New Westminster as Minister of Finance and Agriculture vice Cory S. Ryder resigned.

THOS. R. McINNES.

*Confidential.*

VICTORIA, B.C., May 15, 1900.

MY DEAR SCOTT,—I fully appreciate the expression of sympathy conveyed in your confidential letter of the 13th ultimo, respecting the difficulties with which I have had to contend in endeavouring to secure a stable Government. Frankly however, while I shall always be glad to receive a confidential letter from you, I do not quite appreciate the way in which you have conveyed official directions and instructions in the form of confidential communications. And I will tell you why. Your letter to me of the 30th August last, although marked 'confidential,' and so excluded from the list of documents that may be laid before Parliament, yet contained definite and specific instruc-