GOVERNOR'S REASONS.

Explanation of His Course With Regard to Late Advisers Now Officially Published.

Solution Suggested by the Private Secretary on First Intimation of Trouble.

Mr. Turner Disputes His Honor's Assertions and Challenges His Attitude.

The following correspondence relative to the dismissal of the Turner ministry, and His Honor's choice of new advisers, was officially made public yesterday in an extra of the British Columbia Gazette:

Provincial Secretary's Office,
26th August, 1898.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor directs that the following correspondence relative to the dismissal of His Honor's late advisers, and to the appointment of their successors, be published for general information. By command.

J. FRED. HUME,
Provincial Secretary.

At Government House,
Victoria, B. C., July 13, 1898.

The Hon. the Provincial Secretary, Victoria, B. C.:

Sir,—Referring to the order-in-council received this morning by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, for approval, dated the 8th inst., wherein the several jurisdictions of Messrs. Alexander Sproat, S. M., and John Kirkup, S. M., are settled and defined, and wherein is also incorporated a recommendation that Mr. Frederick George Fauquier be appointed a gold commissioner in and for the Ainsworth mining division of West Kootenay, and a stipendiary magistrate in and for the county of Kootenay, at a salary of $125 per month, I am directed by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to say that so much of the order as settles and defines the jurisdiction of Messrs. Sproat and Kirkup, as aforesaid, must be made the subject of a separate recommendation. I enclose the order herewith for amendment, as indicated. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) T. R. E. McINNES,
Private Secretary.

At Government House,
Victoria, B. C., July 14, 1898.

To the Hon. J. H. Turner, Premier of the Province of British Columbia:

Sir,—Referring to a letter of my Private Secretary, dated yesterday, and addressed to the Honorable the Provincial Secretary, returning a recommendation of the Executive council, made in the matter of the appointment of Frederick George Fauquier as a gold commissioner and stipendiary magistrate, unapproved by me, I have the honor to explain to you my reasons for so doing, as well as to indicate the course I propose to follow for the present in regard to such recommendations. I cannot look on the result of the general elections for this province, held on the 9th inst., as other than adverse to your administration, as an expression of want of confidence on the part of the people. At the same time, as the Cassiar elections are still pending, I do not wish in any way to embarrass you in administering the ordinary business of the province. Unless, however, I become convinced that you have the support of a majority of the new legislative assembly, I cannot accept the advice of yourself and colleagues in regard to new appointments to office, in regard to any special expenditures of money not provided for in the current estimates, unless shown that an urgent necessity exists for the same in the interests of the province. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) THOS. R. McINNES,
Lieutenant-Governor.

At Government House,
Victoria, B. C., July 25, 1898.

To the Hon. J. H. Turner, Premier of the Province of British Columbia:

Sir,—I have returned unapproved to the Hon. the Provincial Secretary the recommendation of the Executive council that the dates of holding the elections in the Cassiar electoral district be altered from the dates already fixed by the returning officer for the district, viz., the 30th day of July and the 6th day of August, to the 1st day of September, in respect to the following polling stations: Hazleton, Lorne Creek, Glenora, Telegraph Creek, Dease Creek, McDame Creek, Teslin Lake and Lake Bennett. I have carefully considered the reasons urged on behalf of so doing by the minister, the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, but, having in view existing political conditions, as set forth to you in my letter of the 14th inst., I do not consider these reasons as adequate, and cannot, therefore, approve the recommendation.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) THOS. R. McINNES,
Lieutenant-Governor.

To the Hon. J. H. Turner, Premier of the Province of British Columbia:

Sir,—In my letter of the 14th July last, regarding my refusal to approve of certain minutes of council therein mentioned, I stated that I could not look upon the result of the general elections for the province, held on the 9th of the same month, as other than adverse to your administration, and an expression of want of confidence on the part of the electorate. You were informed by the same letter that, pending the Cassiar election, I would not embarrass you in administering the ordinary business of the country, but that unless I could be shown that you had the support of the majority of the members elected to serve in the legislative assembly, I would not accept the advice of yourself and colleagues in regard to new appointments, or in regard to special expenditures of money, except in cases of urgent necessity in the interests of the province. I said pending the Cassiar elections, not that the result there, whether favorable or otherwise to your administration, would, in my opinion, reverse the verdict of the electorate, but because I did not wish to take any decided action thereon until the writs had been returned from every constituency in the province. Since writing the letter, however, the representations made by yourself and colleagues, and hereafter referred to, in regard to the expenditure of various sums of money, have influenced me to the extent that I shall no longer await the return of the Cassiar writs before acting on what I consider the verdict of the electorate, as it may be that further delay in calling in a ministry in whom I would have full confidence, would prejudicially affect the interests of the province. It was recommended by the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, and urged upon me by yourself and the Hon. the Attorney-General, that the moneys voted for roads, bridges, school-houses, etc., should forthwith be expended in Vernon, Cowichan, Cariboo and Kamloops, and warrants have been sent up for my approval, covering, in some instances, nearly the whole amounts voted for the said localities. On the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner also, I have been asked to approve of a special warrant for a considerable sum for the Nelson court house, additional to the sums already voted for that building. The Executive council advised me to approve a minute authorizing yourself and the Hon. the Attorney-General to execute forthwith a contract on behalf of the government, granting a subsidy to the Columbia & Western Railway company. And in conference, had on the 2nd inst. with yourself, the Hon. the Attorney-General, and the Hon. the Provincial Secretary, the necessity of at once placing a large sum at the disposal of the government agent in the Cassiar district, for the building of trails and roads through that district, and for the assistance and relief of a large number of men in that district, who could be employed in such work, was urged upon me, and it was strongly contended that to withhold that sum now would be to retard the exploration and development of a rich mining section of the province. Now, in these cases, as you are aware, and in others not mentioned, I have withheld my approval, as I considered them outside of routine business, and in none of them could I see that a delay of a few weeks would make any material difference to the localities concerned, or to the province at large. And in a few other cases, not mentioned, I approved of certain expenditures as recommended. But at the same time I fully realize that my own judgment as to the expediency of such expenditures may be at fault. And I fully realize also that this is an exceedingly important period in the development of the province, and that lack of proper expenditure in certain localities might indeed retard that development. Consequently, impressed as I am with the deep sense of my responsibility to the crown, and my duty to the people of the province, and convinced that yourself and your colleagues are no longer endorsed by the electorate, and have not the confidence of the legislative assembly, I have decided to no longer delay in calling for other advisers. For, as I would not feel justified in granting you another dissolution and appeal to the electorate, and as, after a careful study of the situation, I am convinced that you could not command a majority in the assembly, I shall not put the province to the delay or to the expense of a special session of the legislature, merely for the purpose of formally demonstrating what has already been sufficiently demonstrated to me by the general elections. I deem it my duty, therefore, to ask, and I do hereby ask, that yourself and your colleagues hand in your resignations as advisers to me, and as members of my Executive council.

Dated at Government House, Victoria, B. C., this 8th day of August, 1898.

(Signed) THOS. R. McINNES,
Lieutenant-Governor.

At Government House,
Victoria, B. C., August 8, 1898.

To the Hon. Robert Beaven, Esq., Victoria, B. C.:

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that, by letter of even date herewith, I have relieved the Hon. J. H. Turner and his colleagues from their functions as my advisers and members of my Executive council. This action I have taken in view of the result of the general elections held on the 9th of last month. This is probably the most important period yet known in the development of the resources of the province, and during the month that has elapsed since the said general elections, I have deeply felt the need of advisers in whom I could place full confidence, and whose recommendations I could unhesitatingly approve. And knowing your thorough knowledge of the special needs and requirements of the province, and having in view your long and honorable experience throughout a quarter of a century in the administration of its affairs, and regarding you, moreover, peculiarly fit to reconcile its contending political factions, I hereby call upon you to assume the task of forming a ministry, and to once more act as chief adviser to the representative of the crown.

(Signed) THOS. R. McINNES,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Beaven has the honor to inform His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor that he accepts the duty proposed to him in His Honor's letter of even date, and will proceed with the formation of a new administration.

Victoria, B. C., August 8, 1898.

Mr. Beaven thanks His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for the confidence reposed in him by the commission placed in his hands of forming a new administration. Under existing conditions, Mr. Beaven deems it the proper course to ask His Honor to relieve him of further duty in the matter.

Victoria, B. C., August 12, 1898.

Victoria, August 9, 1898.

To His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia:

Sir,—On the 14th day of July last you advised me, by a formal communication, that you regarded the result of the general elections as adverse to my administration. You added that "as the Cassiar elections are still pending," you did not wish to embarrass me in administering the "ordinary business of the province."

On the 25th of July you declined to act upon the recommendation of the Executive council respecting the date for holding the elections in Cassiar electoral district, in respect to certain polling stations, "having in view existing political conditions."

The elections in Cassiar being still in progress, I have now to acknowledge the receipt of a further communication from Your Honor, dated the 5th day of August, instant, in which you say you shall no longer await the return of the Cassiar writs before taking action on what you "consider the verdict of the electorate." You recite certain recommendations for expenditure of accounts voted by parliament, which you consider "outside of routine business," and you say that in these you saw "that a delay of a few weeks" would make no material difference.

Your Honor goes on to observe that unless you became convinced that I had the support of the majority of the legislative assembly, "you could not accept the advice" of myself and colleagues in regard to "new appointments to office, or in regard to any special expenditures of money not provided for in the current estimates, unless shown that an urgent necessity exists in the interests of this province."

Your Honor, however, proceeds immediately to inform me that, as your own judgment in these matters may be at fault, and being convinced that I and my colleagues are no longer "endorsed by the electorate," you have decided to "no longer delay in calling for other advisers"; and Your Honor concludes by asking that I and my colleagues hand in our resignations as advisers to you, and as members of your Executive council.

This communication was received by me at the hour of 12 by the clock on the 8th day of August. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, Mr. Beaven, a defeated candidate in the general elections not yet concluded, was announcing that he had been sent for by Your Honor to form a government, and the evening paper, the Daily Times, made a similar announcement.

It is impossible for me to assume that Mr. Beaven or the paper mentioned were justified in making such statements. Nevertheless, the fact that they were made may become important in connection with the responsibility Your Honor proposes to undertake.

Permit me to add to the above record of correspondence facts which I submit are of great importance in connection with the present situation.

Appropriations for the fiscal year were fully voted.

MEMORANDA APPROVED SINCE THE 14th JULY, 1898.

July 15th.—Unexpended balances of appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1898, extended to 30th September, 1898.

July 15.—Grant in aid of the Woman's hospital, New Westminster, $750.

July 15th.—$2,500 placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner for making good deficiencies in re estimates of cost of construction of public school buildings in country places.

July 19th—Fixing the jurisdiction of Messrs. Sproat and Kirkup as Gold Commissioners.

July 19th.—Mr. F. G. Fauquier appointed a gold commissioner.

July 19th.—Sanctioning payment of $1,000 and $4,000 to the treasurer of the Provincial Exhibition to be held at New Westminster.

July 19th.—Mr. Richard Russell appointed a notary public.

July 19th.—Requisitions for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1898.

July 19th.—Requisitions for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1898.

July 19th.—Applications from Messrs. Webb, Henderson, and others for lease of mining ground near Boston Bar in the Fraser river.

July 19th.—Application of C. Black for lease of mining ground in the Omineca district.

July 19th.—Applications of John Baker, Edwards and others for leases of mining grounds in the Omineca district.

July 19th.—Applications of Kavanaugh, Berlin and others for leases of mining grounds in Omineca district.

July 19th.—Applications of Ray, Bethune and others for leases of mining grounds in the Omineca district.

July 23rd.—Allowing the County Court (Victoria) Vacation Rules, 1898.

July 23rd.—Requisitions, schedules A, B, and C.

July 26th.—Authorizing expenditure on behalf of four children (McKittrick) to be sent to the B. C. Orphanage.

August 1st.—Requisitions, 29th July, 1898, salary warrants.

August 2nd.—Ruling as to the true intent of sub-section (g) of section 8 of the Mineral Act Amendment act, 1898.

August 2nd.—Special warrant, $417.50, to cover expenses in re investigation of allegations made by the Victoria Times against the department of lands and works.

On Monday, July 18th, 1898, Mr. T. R. E. McInnes, Your Honor's private secretary, called on me at my office in the treasury. He spoke of the letter of July 14th from the Lieutenant-Governor to me, in which the Governor gives his reasons for not signing Fauquier's appointment, etc. He (the private secretary) said that he had written that letter. He said that Your Honor considered that the result of the elections generally was against the government, and therefore no new appointments should be made, and no special warrants drawn. He then went on to say that there was a method by which I could secure a strong government, that owing to the fact that some parties who had taken a very active part against the government in the late elections, being somewhat nervous now about the real position of affairs in the province, particularly with respect to the preponderance of Mainland influence and the consequent danger of the rights of the Island being neglected, they, or he, had arrived at the opinion that it would be well to back me up by support from some of the members who had been elected to support the opposition; and he desired to let me know that His brother, W. W. B. McInnes, M.P., could carry out an arrangement of that kind. He (W. W. B. McInnes) was prepared to resign his seat in the Commons and enter into local politics. He was really a friend of mine, and fully suported most of my policy, more particularly that of railways, agriculture and finance. He would, however, want a seat in the cabinet, and if I were inclined to give him that he was quite sure he could bring over two of the present opposition Island members to my support in addition to his own. This would give me, in the event of Cassiar being favorable to my government, at least 21 or 22 government supporters, and I should, he thought, have little difficulty in getting over one or two more, thus securing a good working majority.

A few days after Mr. W. W. B. McInnes called at my office and discussed the situation on the lines suggested by his brother, Your Honor's private secretary, and confirmed the statements made by the latter.

Mr. W. W. B. McInnes subsequently had other interviews with me on the same subject in my office, and negotiations have practically continued until the present time. Your Honor will observe that such representations from such a quarter necessarily required serious consideration on the part of the government and I was surprised to receive Your Honor's letter, inasmuch as it placed an entirely new complexion on the whole situation.

I shall not at this juncture comment upon all the incidents above related, nor do I propose here to examine the particular opinions of the candidates at such elections as have been held, indeed I am at loss to know how this can accurately be done by anyone, but I will call Your Honor's attention to several phases of the situation certainly as notorious as any of the incidents of the political contests to which Your Honor refers.

Mr. Semlin, Mr. Cotton and Mr. Martin were the leading opponents of the government.

Certain gentlemen elected, while not pledged to support the present administration, have not agreed as to which of these gentlemen will obtain their support in the formation of the ministry.

No ordinary political party lines were adopted by any of the candidates.

I am not aware, and have no reason to believe, that of the gentlemen so far elected a majority have in any way indicated their resolve to support a direct motion of want of confidence in the present administration.

There are at present 17 election petitions filed questioning the return of 17 gentlemen supposed to have been elected to oppose the present administration. It is for the courts to determine whether any or all of these gentlemen have been duly elected.

Suggestions such as these might be multiplied. They all go to show that it is at least doubtful whether, regardless of the vote of the district of Cassiar, the "considered judgment of the country," is adverse to your present advisers.

It is, however, my duty to point out to Your Honor that the course you propose is without precedent in constitutional government.

The authorities fortunately are so strong upon the subject that I feel convinced that on reconsideration Your Honor will be inclined to withdraw the communication of the 8th inst.

I claim the right on the part of your advisers to remain in office until a new parliament has met and given a definite division upon the merits. In the language of Lord John Russell, the assembly is "the legitimate organ of the people, whose opinions cannot be constitutionally ascertained except through their representatives in parliament."

Your Honor will not question that in dealing with the subject in hand recourse must be had to the usage of the Crown in the Mother Country, and that it is your duty "to endeavor to ascertain and to imitate so far as may be consistent with" your position and responsibility as a Lieutenant-Governor. (See Todd's Government in the Colonies, page 324.)

In the language of Lord Dufferin, your "guiding star" is and ought to be the parliament of this province.

"Parliament is the voice of the people." (Todd's Parliamentary Government of England.)

Primarily it is the bounden and solemn duty of a ministry when defeated at the polls to meet parliament before tendering resignation, and this has been the practice in England down to a recent date, subject to but few exceptions.

The present leader of the government in the House of Commons in England, when the ministry of which he was a member was defeated in 1892, met parliament after the general election, and did not resign until defeated on the debate on the address in reply to the Queen's Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Balfour, on that occasion, said:—"In meeting parliament, we are strictly following the best precedent." Let me, however, draw Your Honor's attention to recent Canadian precedents.

The government of Mr. Mackenzie was defeated on the 17th September, 1878, at a general election, by an overwhelming majority. It was in the next month that Mr. Mackenzie decided to resign. Lord Dufferin did not suggest this course. On the contrary, Mr. Mackenzie excused himself for taking it. To meet parliament under the circumstances, he wrote, was the course "in accordance with the English practice," but, he went on to urge, as a justification for not doing so, "there are two precedents of recent date in favor of a resignation before the meeting of the parliament." Even in this case, where the popular verdict gave a majority of 80 against him, the Globe newspaper said: "It is true Mr. Mackenzie knows nothing of the strength of the respective parties until that be tested by a division of the House of Commons," and again, "He has the legal right to hold office until the usual time of the meeting of parliament, to do all the acts that a ministry in the possession of a majority could do."

In the case of Sir Charles Tupper's administration, in June, 1896, over which much difference of opinion has existed, Lord Aberdeen did not dream of suggesting the resignation of that ministry. The ministry had been defeated at the polls. All the returns were in. Not a single election petition had been filed. The parliament, which had terminated by effluxion of time in the preceding April, had voted no supplies for the fiscal year beginning in July.

His Excellency did not, however, refuse to act upon the advice of his defeated ministry. On the contrary, he approved of some of the appointments to office between June 23rd and July 11th.

He withheld his approval only from appointments and conditions which involved—

1. The creation of new offices or appointments.

2. The creation of vacancies for which no provision had been made by parliament, and which had existed for more than one clear fiscal year.

3. Superannuations (and the consequential appointments) for which applications had not been received.

All other executive acts for which supplies were voted were approved, and it was not suggested that His Excellency would withhold his approval from any recommendations necessary to carry on the Queen's government until the voice of the people was made known through parliament.

Sir Charles Tupper, it is true, challenged the constitutionality of the action of His Excellency in making such restrictions as the above, and on the grounds mentioned in a memorandum under the circumstances, and he forthwith resigned; but there does not exist a case in parliamentary government, in English or Canadian history, where the Crown, or Governor-General representing the Crown, asked for the resignation of a ministry because of the result, or supposed result, of a general election, even when the full returns were officially announced.

Under these circumstances, while neither my colleagues nor I personally desire to hold office contrary to the will of the people, we feel bound, in the interests of constitutional and parliamentary government, to claim the right to await the verdict at the hands of their representatives duly elected and in parliament assembled. We, moreover, respectfully question the course Your Honor has chosen to adopt before the general elections are concluded, and while the legality of so large a number of elections already over is challenged in the courts of this province. Under the circumstances I feel it my duty to ask Your Honor to reconsider the communication addressed to me on the 8th of this month. I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed.) J. H. TURNER.
Premier.

Government House,
Victoria, B.C., August 12, 1898.

Mr. Charles A. Semlin, Victoria, B.C.:

Sir,—For reasons intimated in letters of the 14th and 25th July last, and 8th August instant, from myself to the Hon. J. H. Turner, Premier of this province, I asked, himself and colleagues on the latter date to hand in their resignations as my advisers, and members of my executive council, informing them that I had decided to call on other advisers without further delay. On the same day I called on the Hon. Robert Beaven to form a ministry. In calling upon him I was of course aware that he was no longer a leader of the ascendant party, with which yourself and the Hon. Joseph Martin are prominently associated. But as on the best information I could obtain it was made to appear to me that there was no recognized leader of the party since the general elections of the 9th ultimo, it being divided into two factions, supporting the claims respectively of pourself and Mr. Martin to the leadership, and having in view Mr. Beaven's former leadership of the said party, his long and distinguished services to the province, and his great and widely recognized ability as a financier, so much needed in the present financial condition of the province, I sent for him on the 5th instant for advice as to the political situation, and the chances of his being able to reconcile the rival, or supposed rival, factions of the ascendant party, and to form a ministry acceptable to it. As a result of that interview the subsequent action of calling upon him on the 8th instant was taken. Since then I have had an interview with Mr. Martin, and he assures me that I was quite misinformed, that no division exists in the ascending party, and that he looks to you as the leader of it. Mr. Beaven has made a similar report to me, to the effect that Mr. Martin looks to you as the recognized leader. Under these circumstances, accordingly, there no longer exists the advisability that at first appeared, on the facts reported to me, of calling upon the old leader to assume the task of forming a ministry, and reconciling factions. I have the honor, therefore, of calling upon yourself, as the now admitted leader of the ascendant party, to act as chief adviser to the representative of the Crown, and to form a new ministry.

(Signed.) THOS. R. McINNES.

Victoria, B.C., August 12, 1898.

To His Honor Thomas R. McInnes, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia:

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication from you of even date calling upon me to form a new ministry, and to act as your chief adviser in regard to the public business of the province. In accepting your call, sir, I beg to thank you for the high honor conferred, and respectfully assure Your Honor that I will endeavor to carry out your wishes to the best of my ability, and as promptly as circumstances will admit.

I have the honor to remain, etc.,
(Signed.) C. A. SEMLIN.

Government House,
Victoria, B.C., August 15, 1898.

To the Hon. J. H. Turner, M.P.P., Victoria, B.C.:

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated the 9th instant, which has received due consideration on my part. I regret that it compels me to enter into certain details, respecting the grounds of my lack of confidence in yourself and colleagues as advisers, which, from personal respect retained for yourself, I had hoped to avoid. I certainly expected, that, upon receipt of my letter of the 14th July last, and my subsequent refusal to approve of your recommendations, other than in matters of routine, you would have put affairs in order, so as to tender your resignation to me at an early date. I had thought resignation to be the only proper, as well as dignified, course for a ministry to adopt, which had thus been given to understand that it no longer enjoyed the confidence of the representative of the Crown. Yourself and colleagues took a contrary course, however, by seeking to initiate new business, and asking me again and again to sanction undertakings that were not of routine, and that I could not consider urgent. As to the general elections, apart from casually telephoning to me on Monday morning, July 11th last, that you were "still all right, the result so far being 15 to 15," you made no report to me whatever, and I was left to rely on the press reports. Time has since shown that the press reports were entirely correct, but in my letter of the 14th July, above referred to, I felt it open to you to show that you still had the confidence of the legislative assembly. However, you did not see fit to make any report whatever to me as to the general elections and to this day I have not received one from you. But you said to me at an interview, had shortly after the result of the elections held on the 9th July last were published, that you would not have a majority in the assembly, and in my last interview, had on the 2nd of August last, with yourself, the Attorney-General and the Provincial Secretary, the same statement was made by the Provincial Secretary, admitting the result of the Cassiar election would be favorable to your administration. During several interviews with you, I informed you that, while I had every respect for yourself personally, I had little or no confidence in some of your colleagues, and this, together with the verdict of the electorate on the 9th July last, made it impossible for me to unreservedly accept the recommendations of the Executive council. As above stated, I would have preferred not entering into details of why my confidence in yourself and colleagues, as advisers, was gradually weakened, but your communication of the 9th instant, above referred to, leaves no other course now open. At the last session of the legislative assembly, the redistribution bill was brought into the assembly without having been explained to me by yourself or the Attorney-General. As the formal consent of the lieutenant-governor is always given and required prior to the introduction into the assembly of such a measure as the redistribution of the electoral districts of the province, the lieutenant-governor should be consulted in regard to it and its provisions, and the effect of them explained. In the short time at my disposal, I was left to review the bill alone. In doing so, not having the assistance of yourself or the Attorney-General, I did not master it in detail, but on noticing that one clause allowed voters from any part of the province to go to Cassiar and record their vote, without it being required to have resided even a day in the district, and knowing that the Cassiar elections always take place from a month to two months after the general elections for the rest of the province, and that there was nothing to prevent those who had voted at the general elections going, or being sent, to Cassiar a month or so later to vote there, I sent for you to give me an explanation. You informed me that you knew very little about the bill, that it was in the hands of the Attorney-General. I then told you that unless you eliminated the objectionable clause, you would endanger the sanctioning of the bill. Thereupon the Attorney-General waited upon me, and he, in the course of representations made on behalf of the said clause, justified it by alleging that similar conditions existed in remote electoral districts of Ontario. This I knew of my own knowledge was not the case, and I so informed the Attorney-General. The next day, after an all-night session of the assembly, from which members variously opposing this clause retired, as a protest, in a body, the Attorney-General withdrew the said clause. But he did not explain to me, nor did I know at that time, that while Cassiar was being granted an additional member, having only 298 names on the voters' list, far more important and populous sections of the Kootenay country were being given little or no representation. I was subsequently appealed to by the people and press of the Kootenay districts not to sanction the bill, and even to dismiss the ministry responsible for it. Although sympathizing with their natural indignation, I did not consider the circumstances sufficient to warrant so grave an action on my part. It was borne in upon me, however, from that time on, that I was not being advised, to quote from the words of Lieutenant-Governor Angers, "wisely, disinterestedly and faithfully." What was I to think of these and other proceedings then and thereafter taken in regard to Cassiar, a district having a special section of the Provincial Elections act governing it, a section unique, at least in these days, for the way in which it lends itself to manipulation at the hands of the government and its agents? In case you should be as unfamiliar with the clause as you were with the objectionable clause of the redistribution bill, I quote Provincial elections act, chapter 67, section 53, Revised Statutes B. C., 1897:—

"In the electoral district of Cassiar, the returning officer shall fix the day for the holding of the polls in each polling station in the district. The day so fixed need not be the same for all the said polling stations, but the returning officer shall, in his discretion, fix the holding of the polls at each polling station the nearest practicable day subsequent to the day fixed for the nomination of the candidates as aforesaid, not more than 20 days after the date of nomination."

On Saturday, the 23rd of July last, I was asked on the recommendation of the Provincial Secretary, to extend the election days already fixed by the returning officer for Cassiar district for the 30th day of July last and the 6th day of August, instant, to the 1st day of September next, in respect to certain of the polling stations there, to wit: Hazleton, Lorne Creek, Telegraph Creek, Glenora, Dease Creek, McDame Creek, Teslin Lake and Lake Bennett, thus making three polling days for the district, at intervals of a week and a month. This I refused to do by my letter to you of the 25th of July last, and again refused, on separate interviews had with me on the same day by the Provincial Secretary and the Attorney-General; and, at your request, made an appointment for 12 o'clock the same night to discuss the matter, which appointment you neither kept nor afterwards referred to. Since the 9th July last, orders-in-council were frequently placed before me with a request for immediate approval, as the subject-matter was such as to admit of no delay, and great hardship would ensue if they were not then approved. In such cases as I looked into, I found that such haste was not necessary, or that matters had been left to the last possible moment before being sent up to me, and that my approval was sought to be carried, so to speak, by surprise and by storm. I moreover continually found orders-in-council on subjects which I had expressly intimated that I would not approve, thrust in again among orders on routine matters, in such a way that in some instances I was nearly led inadvertently to sign them, and in one instance—the placing of $2,500 at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner for constructing country schoolhouses—I did sign the warrant, having previously refused to do so. I decided to let it go, however, as approved, as it may have been urgently needed as represented. On the 15th July last you asked me to sanction the payment of $750 to the Woman's hospital at New Westminster out of the fund provided for destitute cases of destitute and sick persons, as wherever assistance was intended for hospitals and charitable institutions, they were specifically mentioned by name. I told you that I thought this would be a perversion of the fund, but being advised otherwise by yourself and the Attorney-General, I sanctioned the payment. I am since advised that this was a perversion of the fund. On a subsequent occasion I had a batch of warrants in connection with routine matters sent up for my approval, fastened together in the manner in which I had been instructed that my signature on the last sheet would cover the preceding sheet. There was a large number of them fastened together in this way, but I inspected them all individually before signing the last sheet. To my surprise, I found inserted therein, in different places, six or seven warrants in blank. As I did not propose to approve of blank warrants, I cut them out. This was about the 19th July last. I have since waited for some information in regard to or some enquiry for those warrants in blank, but none has been forthcoming. I was asked to sign a warrant placing $15,000 at the immediate disposal of the government agent in the Cassiar district for the assistance and relief of men to be employed in the construction of trails and roads through the district. I refused. This led to the long and unpleasant interview of the 2nd August, instant, had with yourself, the Attorney-General and the Provincial Secretary, in the course of which I was informed that, failing my sanction, the Attorney-General, pursuant to powers vested in him by section 41, subsections (a) and (b) of the Revenue act, cap. 47, of the Revised Statutes, B. C., could have the warrant issued on his recommendation, without my signature. To convince me of this, the Attorney-General thereupon produced the said act, which he had brought with him and had marked, and proceeded to read the said sections. I told him I was glad he could do it without me, and so take the responsibility off my shoulders. But it was so novel an idea to me that after the interview I looked up the sections aforesaid myself, and I also looked up section 8, chapter 47, of the Revised Statutes, known as the Constitution act, and found that the Attorney-General had misinformed me. Had this contention of the Attorney-General been correct, the Attorney-General would have had considerable control of the treasury. As far as I am aware, however, the Attorney-General did not attempt to exercise his powers in this respect. I could not avoid the conclusion that I was being misled for the purpose of influencing me to sign the warrant under discussion. A week has elapsed since you were dismissed by a formal demand for your resignation. To my great surprise, you have attempted to evade that dismissal, and have forwarded to me a document of controversial nature, above acknowledged. The references therein to an alleged conversation with my private secretary are impertinent, and if such conversation took place as alleged by you, it would only be another of the strangely improper courses you have of late seen fit to pursue. The questions raised therein as to constitutional law I shall not discuss with you. You have allowed yourself to make certain insinuations therein which might have been expected from a mere partizan, or from a certain irresponsible section of the press, but which I had not expected from you, and which I hesitate to attribute to you, although over your signature. I have heard of defeated litigants who ascribed the action or decision of a court to the relationship existing between the judge and the counsel appearing before him, but it is a new thing to me that a prime minister should insinuate that a lieutenant-governor's action is due to a relationship existing between himself and a public man representing a constituency in the Dominion parliament. I shall make no reply to it, other than to say that since the 13th of July last I have consistently and repeatedly intimated to you by letter, interview and action, that my confidence in yourself and colleagues as advisers was gone. I could not let the fear that my action, whatever it might be, would be subject to peculiar misrepresentation, tie my hands or deter me from following such course as my duty to the people of the province appeared to demand. You end your communication by the extraordinary request that I reconsider the dismissal given to you on the 8th August instant. Such a request, emanating from you after what had transpired, and in the face of the insinuations contained in the former part of the same communication, betrays either such a lack of knowledge and propriety on your part, or such readiness to advise me to a venal course of action, as to fully demonstrate your unfitness to act as chief adviser to the representative of the crown. The prerogative of dismissal was exercised by me on the 8th August instant, when yourself and colleagues, by a formal demand for your resignation, were relieved from your duties as advisers to me, and dismissed as members of my Executive council. Such action is not subject to reconsideration.

(Signed) THOS. R. McINNES,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Turner gives to the press the following reply to the letter of the Lieutenant-Governor just quoted:

Victoria, B.C., August 26, 1898.

His Honor T. R. McInnes, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, Victoria, B.C.:

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. I have purposely delayed my reply to this communication in the belief that on reflection you would see fit to recall it. It was impossible for me to suppose, that after time for reflection, such extraordinary statements, innuendoes and insinuations would not be recalled.

A considerable period having passed in which Your Honor has had ample time for reflection and no further communication having reached me, I must assume that you intend to adhere to the statements and reasons set forth in this communication and to abide by its consequences.

I must promptly challenge the many inaccuracies, the misinterpretation of motives and obvious perversions which pervade your communication.

Your Honor states: "I certainly expected that upon receipt of my letter of the 14th of July and my subsequent refusal to approve of your recommendations, other than in matters of routine, you would have put affairs in order, so as to tender your resignation to me at an early date. I had thought resignation to be the only proper as well as dignified course for a ministry to adopt, which you have taken to understand that it no longer enjoyed the confidence of the representative of the Crown."

This statement indicates, it seems to me, the cardinal error into which Your Honor has fallen.

It has been, from time immemorial, the honored privilege of ministers of the Crown to advise Her Majesty or her limited agents upon affairs of state. This privilege has been enjoyed by virtue of the will of the people, shown by their chosen representatives.

To enjoy the confidence of Your Honor, is one thing, to enjoy that of the people, another. This latter element Your Honor would fain eliminate, but I beg to point out that the spirit of the age is contrary entirely to any such course.

Personal antipathy of the Crown has never been the basis of interference with the people's will. Theoretically Your Honor may refuse to accept the advice of ministers responsible to the people, but practically such a course is fraught with grave danger and will be watched with increasing vigilance by a people, proud of, yet jealous of any infringement of their liberties.

Before a subject may be honored by becoming an adviser of the Crown and constitutionally a minister, he should have received an expression of confidence direct from the people. Without this a representative of the Crown is not justified in receiving him as an adviser, nor with it in rejecting him by reason of personal dislike, otherwise there would be interjected the private opinion of the Crown's representative between the people's will and its full fruition.

During the period between the issue of writs for elections and the official returns of the results of the elections it is not usual nor indeed possible to accurately advise the representative of the Crown officially.

Your Honor, however, in this instance, without official inquiry or advice, merely upon press reports and rumors, and before the pronouncement of the people, acted. Had Your Honor waited the final returns you would have been advised of an equality of representation existing between members chosen in favor of or against the then government.

The precipitate action of Your Honor precluded any such official or proper advice and placed the representative of the Crown in the peculiar position of disregarding the people entirely in an attempt to place over them in control of their privileges, a person whom they had twice signally defeated.

The suggestion that, "I and my late colleagues sought to initiate new proceedings and asked Your Honor again and again to sanction undertakings that were not of routine" is as unfair as it is incorrect. I do not feel warranted in saying more in a communication to a representative of the Crown.

Your Honor's letter of the 14th of July did not lead me to believe that I did not enjoy your confidence and the intimation "that you would not accept the advice of myself and colleagues in regard to new appointments to office or in regard to special expenditures of money not provided for in the current estimates unless shown that an urgent necessity existed for the same in the interests of the province" having regard to the constitutional usage and practice during a general election and while the results were as yet unknown, could not by any fair interpretation be construed as having such effect.

I concluded from your letter of the

(Continued On Page 5.)