

CHILLIWACK CAMPAIGN

Leaders of the Conglomerate Opposition Have Evidence of the Premier's Popularity.

Mr. Turner Further Explains the Government Policy and Its Good Results.

The greatest mistake that could have been made by Mr. Charles Munro, the opposition candidate, and his friends, was recorded at Chilliwack last Saturday night, and as a result the wavering ones, with many who had before favored the opposition man on the ground of personal acquaintance, are now pronouncing themselves as for the government with vote and voice and influence.

The error of judgment lay in the bringing to the district of Mr. Joseph Martin, late of Manitoba, and now aspirant to the premiership of this province—"turbulent Joe Martin"—and Mr. F. C. Cotton of Vancouver, and the introduction of the former's favorite election tactics, with a full complement of rowdy howlers in an effort to break up the government meeting.

The electors had gathered, with many ladies, in such number that the accommodations of the hall were utterly inadequate, and showed by closest attention that they fully appreciated the calm, gentlemanly and statesmanlike review of the country's position which the Premier, Mr. Turner and Attorney-General Eberts presented to them. When in answer to the dispassionate arguments of these gentlemen whom they had known for many years, a stranger to all appeared with coarse insults to some of their most respected citizens and "tammany hall" organization in answer to the speakers of the evening, the indignation of the electors rose to boiling point and Mr. Joseph Martin established himself in one section of the hall, and in an event as a cheap politician unentitled to the respect in which British Columbians, government or opposition, desire to hold their public meetings.

Mr. A. C. Wells was chairman at the meeting in question, and on the platform with him and the front seats there were among many others of prominent Premier Turner, Hon. D. M. Eberts, Mr. Charles Munro (the opposition candidate), Mr. Cotton, Mr. Martin, Mr. J. C. Henderson, Mr. John Gibson, Mr. D. McGillivray, Mr. Horatio Webb, Mr. J. Ashwell, Mrs. J. C. Anderson, Mrs. A. Hamilton, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Deholm, Mrs. D. McGillivray, Mrs. McSweeney and Mrs. Ashwell.

Mr. Wells, in his introductory remarks before calling upon the Premier, said that while Hon. Mr. Turner might possibly be a stranger to some, he had known Mr. Turner for thirty years or more, and in all this period had known him as a consistent Christian gentleman, and as a man who would do everything. He had been one of those taken in hand the requisitioning Hon. Mr. Turner to himself to be placed in nomination for the representation of the Chilliwack district in the next parliament, and explained how it had come about that the Premier had been elected to represent this district in the Westminster district, and it was therefore peculiarly appropriate that the minister of agriculture should be elected to represent this district in the Westminster district. From his own acquaintance with Hon. Mr. Turner he could commend him as a man of brains, energy, progressive ideas and high morality. He called upon Hon. Mr. Turner as the first speaker of the evening.

Hon. Mr. Turner received with extreme cordiality and so soon as the applause had subsided he entered the hall upon his address by thanking the electors of Chilliwack for the good feeling they had expressed toward him as well as for the request that had been made enough to present, and upon which he had become their candidate. He fully appreciated the honor that had been done him in this regard, and he expressed considerable pride in the candidature of this important district at the approaching election. It was true that he had spoken recently at the meeting at Chilliwack, and the nomination in Chilliwack, but he had nevertheless been not quite prepared for so magnificent and complimentary a testimonial as the Premier had bestowed upon him while in Victoria. He was at the time attending a meeting of the local committee, and he thought it right to lay the request before the members of the committee, by whom it was received with intense enthusiasm. The meeting was unanimous in their support of the nomination in Chilliwack as well as of the Premier in Victoria, and he accordingly signed his acquiescence in the wishes of the members of the committee, and he received the handsome compliment. (Applause.)

The present was the first occasion he had of addressing the electors of Chilliwack since the last general election, when in the course of the campaign he had had occasion to him on the platform of the district of Chilliwack, and Mr. Kitchen, a gentleman whose devotion to the cause of his constituents, marked ability and fairness as an antagonist were admitted by those differing from him in political principles as well as of his own particular party. The present was the first occasion on which the speaker had visited Chilliwack since the removal by death of Mr. Kitchen, and he could not let the opportunity pass without paying to his memory the tribute of deep respect on this first general election since his demise. (Applause.)

He was also sorry not to see present the member who so earnestly represented the district in the last session of the legislature, and who had proven himself zealous in his endeavors to promote by every means at his command the advancement of the district. Mr. Vedder had been a faithful and consistent representative, and he was both surprised and somewhat regretful that he was not to be the opponent in the present contest. Especially sorry was he to see that with such representative and capable men at home the opposition had found it necessary to go to Manitoba for a standard bearer. Surely it was a sad confession of weakness that it was found necessary to import from another province a politician—an admission that the oppositionists themselves looked upon their leaders here as lacking in the brains and talent requisite for leadership. At the meeting at Abbotsford the opposition candidate in the district, Mr. Munro, while not saying anything against the Premier, Mr. Turner, nevertheless urged the electors of Chilliwack to follow their own legislators, and not to look to Victoria for a representative, even if that representative be the Premier. What

then could Mr. Munro have to say—what position could he consistently take when his party found it necessary to go all the way to Winnipeg for a leader. (Laughter and applause.) After referring to the desperate position in which the opposition must admit themselves to appeal to an absolute stranger in the country to try and save them, the Premier gave a pertinent and unique character of the opposition combination at the present time—the Martin-Cotton et al. party, surely as strange a combination as any country ever saw. A conglomerate of such a combination should catch the voters of British Columbia beyond belief, indeed the reputation of all parts of the province were that the government was never more surely and strongly entrenched. The government came before the electors as a government of British Columbians or British Columbians, and British Columbians would be ready to express the confidence in this government at the polls. (Applause.)

And after twelve years of service what was there in the record of the government that should lead to its rejection by the electors? Of course it had made some enemies in the time referred to, but what government could carry on the affairs of any country for such a period and not raise up against it some opponents? Every position becoming vacant in the civil service usually had six, ten or twenty-five applicants for it, and of course as but one could be satisfied there were numerous disappointed ones who not infrequently became opponents. Should, however, the conglomerate body, any ill chance for British Columbia secure control of the affairs of the province, what had they to offer in the place of the policy of development and expansion which the government had pursued and was pursuing with so signally successful results?

What policy was it that they came before the people of British Columbia upon, any way? We had the policy of the Westminster convention, the policy of Mr. Semlin, the policy of the ultra-Conservative Mr. Cotton, and half a dozen other policies. To which was the opposition now bound, and what was the position of the opposition? The only practical or tangible proposition the opposition had yet put forward was their strong effort to force British Columbia into adopting party lines in its local affairs, and they had vigorously opposed this proposition for what had been called Liberalism or Conservatism, but in the internal affairs of British Columbia? It was in the province a business and not a political matter, pure and simple, and what seemed to him to be required was a united and loyal British Columbia to stand as one man in the required terms and rights of British Columbia to the Dominion, in the hope of securing better terms than those obtained at the conference, and under which the province had since been working. In its relations with the Dominion the legislature of British Columbia had always heretofore been representative of the people, and preferred to allow British Columbia to stand still while all the rest of the world moved on.

No one could deny the necessarily heavy cost of opening up such a country as British Columbia, for it was a particularly expensive matter to take the vast area of the province, its scattered and as yet small population, and most particularly its geographical character, so radically different from those of a flat and thickly settled country such as Ontario. The geographical similarity of the two countries made a fair comparison with Ontario, and although of course such contrasts were attempted, and the opposition would point to the Ontario debt and hold that the province up as a glorious object lesson.

They forgot at the time to explain that Ontario was so densely populated that its public works generally had been carried in the hands of municipal governments—indeed the municipalities had the chief burden of financial responsibility, and the total municipalities of Ontario would be found on investigation a vast one, involving a taxation that British Columbians had never yet been called upon for.

The absolute necessity of opening up British Columbia by means of roads, railroads and other public works, and the experience had with Kootenay and the results achieved through the government's far-sighted and liberal policy here, the Premier stated that when the government had been returned to power its policy for the development of the industries of the country would continue to be the opening up of the country with railroads, roads and kindred public works. (Applause.)

These great works could not be expected to be secured out of one's pocket, nor could they be secured in a day, no matter how desirable. Some people seemed to imagine that capital was to be had for the asking in any quantity, and that no great public work had yet been undertaken in haste, that mature consideration was essential to effect any satisfactory conclusions. (Applause.) The building of the C.P.R. furnished an example in point. So long was this great national highway in construction, many had almost given up hope for its construction. Yet it was built, and built in a manner that has done more to the business sagacity and patriotic enterprise of Canadians. (Applause.)

Exclusive of roads and railroads also towards of \$600,000 had been expended in the Kootenay country during the past ten years in such public works as schools, hospitals, court houses, etc., all of which were necessary to the promotion of the prosperity and opening up of the district. It was important to the whole province to have this district rapidly opened up, not alone to the mines accessible and provide for the bringing out of their ores, but also to secure in the mining sections an unassailable home market for the products of the agricultural parts of the province. (Applause.) And what has been the result? The farmers well knew that the demand had become greater at the same time, and that all conditions for the agriculturist had become more satisfactory since and through the development of the up-country mining industry. (Applause.) Turning next to the expansion of the provincial revenue, the Premier stated its growth in Kootenay alone during a period of ten years from \$32,000 annually to \$240,000. Here was proof again of the wisdom of the large expenditures of the district, and no matter how much was said to the contrary in reckless and scurrilous newspaper articles, or by members of the opposition, the latter well knew that there had been no dishonest, wasteful or unfair expenditure. Had the government continued to do as they were then they would have been prompt to tax the government in the house, and they would have been prompt to place their duty if they had not done so. They had in the house been silent, however, or confined themselves to purposeless invective, and they were not to be so in the future. They would do otherwise. They well realized that there was no truth in the assertions made by their reckless newspapers; that if there were the Red could soon make a position effective on the floor of the legislature. Coming now to the apparent over-expenditure, it was an easy thing to take

a sum never contemplated by the fathers of confederation. While on the subject of Dominion and Provincial expenditures over railways, the question of state-owned and operated roads—in regard to which there had of late been considerable talk—naturally presented itself. He would say that to him it appeared utterly impracticable for British Columbia to think of ever undertaking the nationalization of railways. The experience of New Zealand or Australia or any other country operating its own railway systems could not be taken as evidence of the desirability of this project following the example set, for all the conditions here were essentially dissimilar. In the first place the countries in question were in great measure or altogether self-contained, as British Columbia was not; again they had in their own lands the major of the necessary labor, and they provided the necessary large resources for such undertakings as state railways, whereas British Columbia had only direct taxation to count upon for revenue. Should it come about that at any time the province decided to embark on a policy of railway requirements it was to be anticipated that most of the material to be encountered in financing, for no matter how high the credit of the country was, it was a limited and not to be strained, and that no matter how high the credit of the country was, while in this province they would be in active antagonism with the rest of the transcontinental systems of America, which certainly would prove strong and resourceful rivals. Should at any time the province decide to embark on a policy of railway requirements it was to be anticipated that most of the material to be encountered in financing, for no matter how high the credit of the country was, it was a limited and not to be strained, and that no matter how high the credit of the country was, while in this province they would be in active antagonism with the rest of the transcontinental systems of America, which certainly would prove strong and resourceful rivals.

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Supposing a business man whose store or factory or whatever his enterprise might be, was earning a living and a little beyond, but saw that by borrowing for investment of \$1,000 in some new machinery or plant he could increase the earning capacity of his business, would he do? Would he not if his credit permitted, get the money at a low rate of interest, and put it in the business, so that his business would be able to return him increased dividends a few years later? Would he get the money and put it in his safe, because it would not be necessary to apply to the public accounts, but was not an over-expenditure in the true sense of the term by any means.

As a test of good government the public should look to the assets obtained by these investments, and their revenue earning capacity, and whether the revenue obtained in the ordinary course with the cost of current expenses of government. Here it would be found that the business man had not been sufficient during the past ten years, but he had left upwards of a million dollars in the business, and the business works accounted in other words the business man was not only self-sustaining, but he had steadily left a profit to be turned into other investments, the new investments made from time to time by the floating of loans were also in the augmentation of a business, and continually increasing the value of its profits. (Applause.)

In addition to the permanent public works for the province, the roads and railroads, there were other works of equal importance, coming under the head of public works, and which had been neglected, and the importance of all which would be readily acknowledged. The roads and railroads were necessary in view of the scattered character of the population as well as of the unique geographical conditions of the province, and it was to be anticipated that all British Columbians could pride for their educational system with pride, for not only did it secure a good education for every boy and girl of the province, but it secured it more cheaply than inferior educational facilities were to be had elsewhere. (Applause.)

In connection with the department of agriculture a sum of \$60,000 had also been spent, and written in the public accounts. At the time he became a member of the cabinet he discovered that he was known not as a minister of finance alone, but as a minister of agriculture, so that at the time he inquired of his leader, the late Premier Robson, what the duties were devolving upon the minister of agriculture, he was told that he did not appear to clearly comprehend—the office had been created some time back and maintained practically in name only, and the confidence expressed by British Columbia was not an agricultural country and could not be made so, nor had any attempt been made to prove the value of a department of agriculture, which existed merely as a name.

This did not meet with his (Mr. Turner's) approval, and he was determined to be minister of agriculture he would either prove that there was no work for such a minister to accomplish or no reason for the extension and maintenance of the department. Premier Robson did not offer him much encouragement, for he seemed to be imbued with the popular idea that the promotion of the prosperity and opening up of the district. It was important to the whole province to have this district rapidly opened up, not alone to the mines accessible and provide for the bringing out of their ores, but also to secure in the mining sections an unassailable home market for the products of the agricultural parts of the province. (Applause.)

And what has been the result? The farmers well knew that the demand had become greater at the same time, and that all conditions for the agriculturist had become more satisfactory since and through the development of the up-country mining industry. (Applause.) Turning next to the expansion of the provincial revenue, the Premier stated its growth in Kootenay alone during a period of ten years from \$32,000 annually to \$240,000. Here was proof again of the wisdom of the large expenditures of the district, and no matter how much was said to the contrary in reckless and scurrilous newspaper articles, or by members of the opposition, the latter well knew that there had been no dishonest, wasteful or unfair expenditure. Had the government continued to do as they were then they would have been prompt to tax the government in the house, and they would have been prompt to place their duty if they had not done so. They had in the house been silent, however, or confined themselves to purposeless invective, and they were not to be so in the future. They would do otherwise. They well realized that there was no truth in the assertions made by their reckless newspapers; that if there were the Red could soon make a position effective on the floor of the legislature. Coming now to the apparent over-expenditure, it was an easy thing to take

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encouraged, and the vast sums of money heretofore sent to California for butter kept at home to enrich the home product of growing the value of the representative industry, the best men being secured by the province to assist with information and advice as to selection of varieties, the destruction of pests, sorting and marketing; and experiments were being made in order to secure for the farmer information as to where new lines might with profit be introduced.

Beet growing for sugar was one of these that was receiving attention, and while the results from the samples sent to the factories were scarcely satisfactory as yet, the department had learned that there was some error in the method of shipment, reducing materially the sugar-producing qualities of the beets before they reached the test, and there was ample reason to believe that a second year would result more satisfactorily. Should it be demonstrated that British Columbia could grow good sugar beets, as it was most probable would be the case, the province would be enabled to produce a necessary factory, and give another important industry in the shape of a large sugar refinery to the farmers of the province. (Applause.)

The cry of the farmers for cheaper money wherewith to improve their lands had not been unheard, and at the last session of the legislature a measure had been introduced and carried whereby it was anticipated that loans might be obtained for the purpose of improving farm properties. This "Cheap Money" bill, as it was generally termed, he did not intend to bring up at the present juncture, but he would say that it depended for its success upon the farmers co-operating for their mutual advantage. It was his intention to send well qualified men through the country at an early date to clearly explain all details in connection with the plan, and there was no apparent reason why the scheme should not work out well in British Columbia as it had elsewhere else it had been given a fair trial.

It had been urged that British Columbia was not to be compared with the other countries in question, as it was not so long settled, and it was even asserted that in this province the standard of commercial morality was not so high. For his part he believed that they were quite enough farmers in British Columbia with a conscientious regard for their business obligations to make the "cheap money" plan effective here, and especially in such a community as Chilliwack it should produce abundantly beneficial results, through the formation of one of the best dyking associations contemplated. (Applause.)

Referring next to the finances of the province, the Premier demonstrated how the opposition had misrepresented the facts in their efforts to convince the people that the government were not doing their duty. For example they had declared that the revenue had declined in that year there had been a grave decline in the country's revenue. What was the explanation of this apparent decrease? Why legislation had just been had doing away with the sale of public lands in large blocks, which to that date had been a market and it was even asserted and of course the cutting off of an item of \$200,000 a year by legislation had its effect on the total. Land sales were being slow, and the revenue from ordinary revenue, and the revenue from legitimate sources had not decreased, but steadily increased from \$1,000,000 to \$1,200,000, and this not from sales of the public domain, but largely through the practical development of the mines and kindred interests of the province. (Applause.)

The steady improvement of the provincial credit was traced in the "non-being" made by the government, and the loans, thanks to the system adopted of offering provincial securities in the open money market, and the testimony in regard to the credit of the province, and the world as to the good management of the affairs of British Columbia was pointed out. The money lenders of London, by whom the credit of British Columbia had been advanced steadily and continually were not the ones to be influenced by sentiment of any kind, and when they advanced the cost of money to a country from 4 1/2 per cent.—which was the rate at which it was ever obtained until the present time—now in vogue at 3-1/2 to 3-1/4 per cent., the present quotation, it meant that the keenest business judgment of the country's business, and the most sagacious and sound in business principle. (Applause.)

And besides getting the money for productive public works at a low rate of interest, and the confidence expressed by the world as to the good management of the affairs of British Columbia was pointed out. The money lenders of London, by whom the credit of British Columbia had been advanced steadily and continually were not the ones to be influenced by sentiment of any kind, and when they advanced the cost of money to a country from 4 1/2 per cent.—which was the rate at which it was ever obtained until the present time—now in vogue at 3-1/2 to 3-1/4 per cent., the present quotation, it meant that the keenest business judgment of the country's business, and the most sagacious and sound in business principle. (Applause.)

Taking up to-day, the Imperial consols showed an increase during the period under consideration of 12 per cent, while during the same period the value of the British Columbia consols had gone up 19 per cent. (Long continued applause.) Taking up Mr. J. C. Brown's figures on provincial finances, the Premier showed as he had at Abbotsford the utter unreliability of the statements made, while in a running commentary upon Mr. Brown's inaccuracies he demonstrated how expensive a matter it must necessarily be to provide in so new and vast a country all the facilities such as educational institutions and police protection which British Columbia was proud to be able to offer to those who settled within her borders. Of the administration of justice in the country there could be no two opinions. Even the most patriotic American coming into British Columbia would be struck by the order and protection by the law, no matter how new and unsettled the community might be. (Applause.)

As an illustration of the opposition's small regard for the true interests of the province the Premier pointed to an article appearing in the "Vancouver Free Press" referring to the alleged collapse of negotiations for the building of the Teslin Lake railway into the Yukon mining fields. This article gleefully set forth that even the wind was blowing for the opposition—the opponents of the government were not only not to be comforted by the success of the pro-prosperity men, but they could make capital out of it for their party purposes. Was this the standard of morality to be adopted by the men who asked to be entrusted with the control of the country's destinies? (No, no.)

And what did the opposition propose to do to secure the development of the country? Even if they should by any means obtain the reins of government? The country could not be expected to go ahead to its natural destiny unless a bold and progressive policy were pursued. The Peace River railway was one factor in the development of such a policy, and despite the prophecies of the opposition, speakers and papers the Teslin Lake railway was not to be abandoned, to play its own part in the opening up of the far northern portions of the province, and the offering to the people of the best market for the products of the southern districts. (Loud applause.)

Dyking operations in the Westminster district were not only a matter of local concern, and with regard to these he would say that the government fully appreciated their extreme importance. The history of what had already been done he traced in detail, and although much was being said concerning the matter he would not, he believed, be going on for long, but he would complete within the original estimate of cost or approximately so. He had seen the hills going on in the Westminster district, the practical result of the Matsqui dyking in a verdant meadow where previously nothing would be seen at the present stage of the work, and he had received positive assurance of large acreages of land being this year put under plow, which but for the dyking would have been touched by the farmers. Besides the dykes proper, work had been done and was being done by the government for the protection of the land along the dykes, and these works also he would every reason to believe were answering well the purposes of their construction.

Mr. McConnell (interjecting) — And they'll last too; I know good work when I see it. The Premier was glad to have this confirmation of his own belief, and referring to the expressions of dissatisfaction in regard to the dyking operations, he emphasized the necessity of an expert once engaged being supported except on most positive evidence of failure. The Matsqui dyking of "swapping horses in the middle of the stream." If in this Matsqui dyking matter there were any abuses, however, the residents who were interested in the matter and who would have to pay for the works should lose no time in presenting their complaints to the local committee, and it was their duty to do so and immediately investigate. (Applause.)

At the present time there were many important public works contemplated in Westminster district, works that naturally would be expected to result in permanent and profitable business in the Chilliwack district, and he both hoped and expected that these would show themselves to have been as wisely entered upon as the works there were in the Kootenay of the greatest sections of the province and transformed what was practically a wilderness into one of the greatest wealth-producing centres in the country or the world. (Applause.)

In conclusion the Premier thanked the audience for the confidence expressed by their tentative hearing given him. He did not claim to be an orator; he was not one, nor was he an imported politician, but he had aimed to explain the situation and prospects of British Columbia as plain, business man and in a plain business way. He was a British Columbian himself, and his interests and interests were bound up in the promotion of the prosperity of the province that so long had been his home. As the leader of the government he was naturally as the representative of the entire province in the house, while as minister of agriculture he recognized that his representative as an agriculturist was the province as a whole, and he was particularly anxious to see the improvement of the agricultural interests of the Fraser valley country. The policy of the government was before the electors. It was a policy of progress and development, opening up the country by means of necessary and profit earning public works. And this was the policy on which the government asked an expression of the confidence of the people at the polls on the 9th of July next. (Prolonged applause.)

Mr. Martin made an abusive address at the course of the Premier's remarks, and when the chairman would not allow Mr. Martin to speak, he turned to Mr. Eberts, to follow, those two gentlemen, the Premier's candidate, Mr. Munro, left the hall. Attorney-General Eberts delivered an effective speech and the meeting ended.

THE KOOTENAY RAILWAY.

A Victorian Arrives to Take Charge of the Rock Work During Construction.

Nelson, June 22.—(Special.)—James Wilson, formerly street superintendent of Victoria, arrived to-day at Brooklyn, the newest city of the Kootenay country, which has within the past few years sprung up on the south shore of Lower Arrow Lake. He is to take charge of the rock work on the Peace River-Rosland section of the railway, Brooklyn being the central operation camp. Construction is to be pushed, he says, with all despatch, this being the season for the work. A. J. McLellan, who is also interested in the construction work, left for home from Brooklyn to-night.