# MINISTERIAL DECOY DUCKS

**The Province Pours More Hot Shot Into the Ranks of the Panic-Stricken Turnerites.**

**A Complete Expose of the Premier's Dishonesty, Weakness, Trickiness and Incapacity.**

**Pen Picture of a "Politician From Whom the Mask of Hypocrisy Has Been Stripped".**

(The Province.)

There is light at last. The criticisms of the Province have proved too much for the mantle of dignified reserve which the ministerial decoy ducks and the Colonist were endeavoring to throw around themselves in connection with the mining company schemes, and at last the badger has been drawn. Dignified reserve is a handy thing to have in the family, but the Province has apparently found weapons that will pierce it. One day last week the esteemed Colonist came to the conclusion that criticism of the connection of the Hon. J. H. Turner and the equally Hon. C. E. Pooley with mining companies was an exhibition of journalistic blackguardism, the like of which it had never seen; and on Sunday this was followed by an interview with Hon. J. H. Turner and an editorial article in which the esteemed Colonist seeks to show that various other men holding cabinet positions have from time to time identified themselves with various private business interests. In the opinion of the esteemed Colonist it is a brutal shame that the Hon. J. H. Turner and the equally Hon. C. E. Pooley should be criticized while those other offenders are allowed to go Scot free. Then the esteemed Colonist goes on to ask: "Where is this novel code of ethics to lead us, if the name of no public man is to be used in connection with business enterprises?" and with some few additional remarks to the effect that there are certain advantages incidental to public positions of trust and importance, the Colonist dismisses the subject with a reference to Mr. Turner's interview, which it thinks will dispose of the whole question to the satisfaction of the people.

### Disgraceful Misbehavior.

The esteemed Colonist desires to make the public think it is ingenuous, but it is hardly honest. Right and wrong are not merely a matter of locality. If other public men have misbehaved themselves in the manner in which Hon. J. H. Turner and the equally Hon. C. E. Pooley are misbehaving themselves, then they should be denounced and punished for their misbehavior. It is not, however, with the public men of Great Britain or the other parts of Canada or the States that the people of British Columbia are called upon at the present time to deal. They are not on trial here, but the Hon. J. H. Turner and the equaly Hon. C. E. Pooley are. Nor has anyone criticized the Hon. J. H. Turner because he is the member of a wholesale dry goods and wet goods firm, or the equally Hon. C. E. Pooley because he practices law in the odd hours when he is not engaged in running the country. The chief point of the criticism has been that these gentlemen have been using their official positions for the purpose of inducing the investing public of Great Britain to buy mining stocks. Mining companies are notoriously uncertain enterprises, and it is a fact with which everyone is familiar that British investors have been bitten so often by the promoters of mining companies that they have become shy of investing, and only do so when the names of those connected with them are of such a character as to inspire confidence. Naturally, when the sale of shares is announced in a company in British Columbia having on its directorate the premier of British Columbia and the president of the cabinet council of British Columbia, the fact has a tendency to make people believe that this company is not of the wild cat order, but of such a character as to practically guarantee investors that their money will be safe. Will Mr. Turner or Mr. Pooley or the esteemed Colonist deny this statement of facts? Will they deny that the official positions of Hon. J. H. Turner and the equally Hon. C. E. Pooley have ben paraded before the people of England in circus poster type for any other purpose? Have they the effrontery to deny that they are trading on their portfolios for personal gain? Will they have the impudence to say that they are not posing as decoy ducks to bring the dollars into the game bags of the needy promoters hiding behind the weeds? What does this clause in the prospectus mean: "With the opportunities which such a board of directors as that of this corporation will possess for obtaining early and reliable information as to the best sources of investment, this part of the corporation's business should, it is believed, prove a considerable source of profit," if it does not mean that the Hon. J. H. Turner and the equally Hon. C. E. Poley are prepared to put the government plans and purposes and secret information at the disposal of the company for the benefit of the shareholders? If the Hon. J. H. Turner and the equally Hon. C. E. Pooley do that they are making the government of British Columbia subversive to their own private interests and the interests of this company. If they do not live up to that promise in the prospectus they have been a party to a transaction which many would not hesitate to characterize as obtaining money from the public under false pretences. They can accept whatever alternative they choose. Either one is sufficiently discreditable to damn them forever, and the government which they direct and control, in the eyes of honest men who are capable of seeing clearly the extraordinary position in which the two men have managed to place themselves. The province has no hesitation in describing the situation of affairs as absolutely unique in the history of Canada, and we may all be thankful that it is so.

### Have Become Mere Political Strumpets.

Let there be no confusion in the public mind regarding the position that these men occupy. In defying the public opinion as they are doing, in scandalising the press and people of a large and important part of the British empire, and in taking advantage of the positions of trust and honor, to which they have been elected by the votes of the people, for the ignoble purpose of individual gain and to give a fictitious value to the stocks of mining companies, they have become mere political strumpets, and are not entitled to recognition as honorable men. The Province makes this assertion in all seriousness and with a full sense of the gravity of the language it employs. No man who betrays a trust is entitled to respect or confidence, and the man who betrays a public trust is infinitely worse than his other wretched fellow who betrays a private one, for the one affects all the people and the good name of the country while the other affects only the persons immediately interested. If it should be shown that a judge accepted a bribe for passing lenient sentence on a prisoner, there would be a howl from one end of the country to the other; yet what moral difference is there between a bribable bench and a bribable ministry? It is not pretended that the premier and the president of the council are lending their names and their official titles and influence and knowledge to the promotion of companies of a questionable character without receiving something in return. The consideration may be direct in the shape of stock or money, or it may be indirect. Whatever it is, it is obviously large enough to make it worth the while of men in high places to sell themselves. It is merely a case of bargain and sale. A great cynic once said that all men have their price, but it would be a deplorable thing if we were to accept this as true, merely because of the conduct of some of the members of the British Columbia legislature. The optimist—and no man has a right to be anything else in this world—will rather incline to the belief that these men are the exception. We are fact to face wth a sad crisis in British Columbia's history if they are not.

### "Legislation For Sale Here."

But the whole course of the British Columbia Legislature has been of such a character as to invite suspicion and distrust. It has not been honest. We all admit that the government of a vast and largely undeveloped country like British Columbia is a difficult matter. Every section has different needs, many of them urgent, and is clamouring for assistance. To help all, and especially to help all at once, is a manifest impossibility. The government that set itself to work to study the conditions under which the people live here and do its best to ameliorate them would have its hands full, but it would find its reward in the grateful appreciation of the people. The Turner government has no such record. It has devoted itself to giving away the public property to land-sharks and charter-mongers and has ornamented Victoria with legislative buildings which are unquestionably the finest in Canada. No one pretends that these buildings were required. Their beauty we all admit, and we all know that it was advantageous to Victoria to have them erected here, but there was no necessity for them. The million dollars or so which they cost would have done the province just one million dollars more good if it had been spent in developing the country. The old buildings would have answered admirably for the next decade. Whether other influences than those which have appeared on the surface have been at work in this reckless waste of the people's land and the people's money is a problem difficult of solution; but we are all entitled to speculate on the possibilities of things. How much the Heinzes and Dunsmuirs of the country have contributed directly to the pockets of the party in power, it would be interesting to know. Rightly or wrongly the opinion among those who are familiar with the legislature and the legislative body is that the endorsation of the government for any kind of questionable project can be purchased very much as one purchases a pound of beefsteak or a sugar-cured ham. It might not be inappropriate to supplement Mr. Dewdney's brass plate with another one bearing the legend: "Legislation for sale here to the highest bidder."

### Turner Either Dishonest or Weak.

The Hon. J. H. Turner is spoken of personally as being an honest man. His apologists excuse his shortcomings in the matter of company promoting on the ground that he is led into these schemes by hi friends. He is easy-going and good natured and plunges rashly ahead without much thought when he is urged to do so by those in whom he puts confidence. This picture of Mr. Turner is hardly flattering. In order to accept him as an honest man we must also accept him as a weak tool lacking in perception and common sense, and the ability to make and take a firm stand. There is no escape from this conclusion. Mr. Turner, on the showing of his friends, is either dishonest or weak and in either event he is unfit to be at the head of affairs. In passing it may be asked if his action in telegraphing that the coal mines of the country paid a tax upon their output was the act of an honest man. If it was, then honesty has taken on a new meaning of late years. But whatever may be said about Mr. Turner, nobody suggests for a moment that Mr. Pooley is a weak sister. Mr. Pooley is—well, Mr. Pooley is Mr. Pooley. His friends cannot lead him into company promoting out of sheer good fellowship. Yet Mr. Pooley is permitted to retain his place in the cabinet and trade upon it for his own personal benefit both as regards company promoting and the E. & N. railway and the Wellington and Union coal mines, of which concerns, constantly interested in legislation requiring the good offices of the government, he is the paid solicitor.

### That Extraordinary Interview.

But Mr. Turner himself does not agree with his friendly apologists in his estimate of himself as we find it sketched in the extraordinary interview in Sunday's Colonist. There Mr. Turner poses at a shrewd, far-sighted man of affairs who has gone thoroughly into the prospects of the mining companies with which he has allowed his name to be connected and has satisfied himself that he is quite justified in throwing in his lot with them and in permitting the more active promoters to use him as a decoy duck for gathering in the public. His conscience is quite clear in the matter, and he thinks that the sharp criticisms of the London Times and Truth and other English papers of high character are due to the fact that some naughty British Columbians have got hold of the editorial ear and inspired the stirring comments. Does Mr. Turner really mean all this or is his "explanation" intended for a merry jest? Is it possible that this man who has been honored among his fellows sees no wrong in what he has done and has no feeling of shame, no sense of disgrace over the public ignominy that has been heaped upon him? It is quite true, as Mr. Turner says, that a public man has the right to engage in private enterprises, but he has no right to trade upon his official position as a minister of the crown to boom the shares of mining companies or to accept retaining fees from concerns requiring legislative favors. The man who does that sort of thing is entitled to no higher moral regard than is bestowed upon some of those who by their actions render themselves liable to the penalties provided by the criminal code.

### The British Investor Alarmed.

One of the points which Mr. Turner makes in his extraordinary interview is that in permitting his name to be used for the promotion of mining companies his sole object has been to get British capital into the country. Like the admiral in the comic opera, he never thought of thinking of himself at all. If we are to accept this plea at its face value, Mr. Turner himself must admit that he has failed signally in the attainment of his object, for denunciation of his action on the part of the British press has been so general that it cannot but have the effect of making British investors look with suspicion on any company which waves the ministerial names aloft. Indeed, several of the London papers have gone so far as to warn their readers explicitly against having anything to do with these companies. Instead of helping the influx of British capital, then, Mr. Turner has hindered it. His willingness to sacrifice himself by lending his name to any sort of company with a gift enterprise attachment in the matter of shares has scared the British investor off the field. He may not be familiar with all the details, but he thinks with his favorite newspaper that there is something wrong somewhere and accordingly he fights shy. Nor can we wonder at his doing so. British Columbians would do the same thing if the situation were reversed. Mr. Turner has only himself to blame if people look upon him with distrust; he has only himself to blame if the use of his name and that of Mr. Pooley, instead of strengthening the companies it is intended to bolster up, has weakened them. Greed is quite as apt to over reach itself as ambition.

### The Mask Torn Off.

The Province feels sorry for Mr. Turner. He is an old man. His head has been crowned with snowy hair and his life with honors. Out of regard for him it could wish to tear the pages of this chapter of his life out of the book and leave nothing for the human eye to see but the record of his unsullied business reputation and his personal integrity. But unfortunately it cannot. A newspaper that respects itself must tell the truth and turn the awful searchlight of publicity upon the public acts of public men. Reading between the lines of the Colonist interview, one finds there nothing but the pitiful wailing of a politician from whom the mask of hypocrisy and humbug has been stripped, and who finds the burden of his shame hard to bear. It is pathetic, but the matter is too serious to let feelings of pity sway the judgment or blind the eyes to pitiless facts and logic. Think for a moment to what desperate mental straits this man must have been driven when he put forward the wretched excuse that the criticisms in the London press of his connection with the companies were inspired by his political enemies in British Columbia! How this could be the case when the comments in the London papers appeared immediately on the heels of the appearance of the prospectus and before anyone in this part of the world, with the exception of Mr. Turner and Mr. Pooley themselves, had the faintest notion of the company's existence, has yet to be explained. Does Mr. Turner think that his political opponents in British Columbia have the qualities which clairvoyants and hypnotists claim, enabling them to find out what is going on in other parts of the world at any moment and direct the actions of others to their own ends? Statements of this sort may do to gull children with, but they can hardly be expected to be taken seriously by rational men. But there is still time for Mr. Turner to do the decent, manly, honorable thing. Let him admit frankly that he has made a mistake and express his regret for it and throw himself on the mercy of the people. Let him take the public into his confidence and tell what rewards were received or expected for his connection with the mining companies. Honest confession is as good for the soul of the premier of a country as for any other man. If he cares to do that or if he cares to answer the criticisms of the Province on his conduct in this regard, it need hardly be said that the columns of this paper are open to him to reply. The Province has no wish to condemn any man unheard or say one word that is unfair or unjustifiable. Here is Mr. Turner's opportunity. The Province offers him the free use of its pages to put himself right before the public if he can.


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MR. J. H. BEEMER, C.P.R. Act., Windsor, Ont., says he was troubled with Dyspepsia, and Kidney and Liver trouble for about 8 years. He took Dr. Chase's K.-L. Pills. They cured him, and now he recommends them to others.

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# THE SALMON SHIPS

**Tenof the Twelve Have Sailed, Carrying Salmon Valued at Three Million Dollars.**

**The C. P. N. Co. and the Owners of the Sadie Claim $10,000 Salvage From the Senator.**

**Lumber Rates to Skagway and Dyea Advance—A Review of Last Month's Shipping.**

Appended is a list of this year's salmon fleet and their cargoes: British bark Balmore, 1,338 tons; sailed from the Fraser for Liverpool on October 5th, with 68,177 cases, valued at $272,708; British ship Irby, 1,480 tons, sailed from Victoria for London on October 8th with 63,546 cases, valued at $249,999; German ship Kehreweider, 1,355, sailed from the Fraser on October 12th for Liverpool with 54,471 cases, valued at $272,355; British steamer Tekoa, 2,646 tons, sailed from the Fraser river for London and Liverpool on October 20th with 111,000 cases, valued at $440,000; British ship Silberhorn, 1,853 tons, sailed from the Fraser river on October 25th for Liverpool with 84,017 cases, valued at $336,068; British ship City of Benares, 1,499 tons, sailed from the Fraser river for Liverpool on November 5th with 70,707 cases, valued at $295,505; Swedish ship Lady Lina, 1,363 tons, sailed on November 10th from Victoria and the Fraser river for Liverpool with 59,816 cases, valued at $239,264; German bark Seestern, 1,446 tons, sailed from Victoria for London on November 15th with 65,410 cases, valued at $287,745; Danish bark Irvine, 612 tons, sailed from the Fraser river for Liverpool on November 18th with 27,087 cases, valued at $115,090; British ship Iolanthe, 1,593 tons, sailed from the Fraser river for Liverpool on November 23rd with 67,480 caser, valued at $268,790; German ship Adelaide and the British bark Labo are now loading at the Fraser for London. The rates paid to the vessels of this fleet range from 27 shillings and 6 pence to 40 shillings for the Tekoa and 37 shillings and 6 pence to some of the last of the sailing vessels chartered. The vessels which have sailed up to the present took in all nearly 700,000 cases, valued at about $3,000,000 and two vessels are yet to sail.

In the monthly shipping report issued by Messrs. R. P. Rithet & Co. the shipping business of the month of November is dealt with as follows: Firmnes has been the most prominent characteristic of the freight market throughout the month, and although grain vessels came in freely during the latter part, quotations were not much affected. With their immediate wants supplied, however, exporters are content to wait, and meanwhile there is little or no business to be done. The views of the owners and exporters do not quite coincide for the time being. Lumber freights have advanced in sympathy, and there being an unusual scarcity of vessels, chartering has been greatly curtailed. But with large stocks and a poor demand in nearly all consuming markets, there is little room for higher freights, and transactions have consequently been on a limited scale. It is long since owners have been in so favorable a position and they are naturally making the most of it.

For services rendered to the British ship Senator, Capt. Harrison, which so narrowly escaped destruction on the rocks at the entrance to Esquimalt harbor, on which stands the Fisguard lighthouse, on Thursday, the C.P.N. Company, the owners of the tug Sadie, have attached the vessel, claiming $10,000 as salvage for their services. The attachment was made this morning, the deputy sheriff making his way out to the vessel and nailing his writs of attachment to her masts. As will be remembered, the steamer Maude and the tug Sadie went out to the ship on Thursday aftrenoon when she was dragging her anchors and in a dangerous predicament and after much trouble succeeded in towing her to a safe anchorage in Esquimalt harbor. For this the owners of each vessel claim salvage to the amount of $5,000.

In the cities at the head of Lynn canal there is a great demand for lumber. Taking advantage of this the steamship companies have advanced their rates on this commodity. The Pacific Coast Steamship Company have raised their rate to $9.50, an advance of $2 per thousand. The Washington & Alaska Steamship Company at once raised their rate to the same figure. That many large lumber shipments will be made to southeastern Alaska this winter is shown by the fact that the Pacific Coast Steamship Company has contracted to carry one million feet to Dyea for one firm.

There is such an accumulation of Oriental freight in the warehouses and sheds of the Northern Pacific Steamship Company that they have decided to make a change in the routes of their steamers to relieve it. The steamer Olympia, which was to have sailed from Hongkong on Dec. 21st and Yokohama on January 1st for this port, will sail to Portland instead, and the big freighter, the Braemar, will come here. The Braemar will arrive on this side of the Pacific in January, and carry at least 7,000 tons of accumulated freight to the Orient.

The branch hydrographic office of the United States at the customs house, Port Townsend, will furnish on application, free of charge, full information concerning the rocks recently discovered at the entrance to Clayoquot Sound on the West Coast.


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## FUNERAL OF MRS. PRIOR.

Large Congregation Attend the Service at the Cathedral.

A very large number attended the funeral of the late Mrs. E. G. Prior, which took place this afternoon. A long cortege formed at the residence on Pemberton Road and proceeded to Christ Church Cathedral, which edifice was crowded by friends of the family and the public generally. Lieut.-Governor McInnes, Premier Turner, Senators McDonald and Templeman and many other public men were present. There were a great many handsome floral offerings.

The services at the Cathedral were conducted by the Bishop of Columbia, assisted by Canon Beanlands. The full surpliced choir was present.

The pallbearers were Sir. Charles Hibbert Tupper, Messrs. Thomas Earle, M.P., E. C. Baker, T. B. Hall, Lt. Col. Peters, Harvey Combe, H. M. Grahame, and G. A. Keefer.

## WHEAT STILL RANGES HIGH.

Chicago, Dec. 10.—Wheat was dull and easy at the opening to-day. About 45 minutes after the opening the market suddenly developed strength, May selling up to 98⅝ and December to 1.08. Offerings became more liberal at the advance and May reached to 97⅞ and December to 1.07. The report that the foreigners were buyers of wheat at New York started the advance.

San Francisco, Dec. 10.—Wheat quiet; May, 1.27⅝.


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## THE RICH SLOCAN.

Provincial Assessor Keen Tells of the Fortunes Being Made There.

John Keen, provincial assessor for this district, with headquarters at Kaslo, is in the city. He says that more ore will be shipped out of the Slocan during the present winter than has been in the past four years. Mr. Keen is the authority for the statement that the operators of the famous Payne mine will divide the enormous sum of $200,000 profits this month. The Whitewater people will also share $120,000 for December. The Kaslo & Slocan railway is taxed to its fullest capacity in hauling ore to Kaslo for shipment to the big United States smelters, although the road has lately added largely to its rolling stock.

As an instance of the marvellous wealth of the Slocan and the good fortune that has been unexpectedly encountered there, Mr. Keen tells the story of the Fidelity mine, situated on the road between New Denver and Silverton. A cook who was last summer employed at an hotel at Silverton was discharged from his position. While walking to New Denver, four miles distant, in search of work, hit attention was drawn to some glittering mineral in the roots of a tree that had been blown down during a storm the day before. The man at once proceeded to stake out a mineral claim embracing the find. He has since mined and shipped $7,000 worth of high grade ore, and very little development work has been done on the property.—Rossland Miner.

## COLLAPSE OF A CAST HOUSE.

Milwaukee, Dec. 10.—Twenty men were buried under the debris by the collapse of the cast house of the Illinois Steel company's plant at Bayview at 2 o'clock this morning. All but two escaped with a few scratches and bruises. The two seriously injured were John Heslak and Thomas Kowalakt. Last evening an explosion of the furnace adjoining the cast house occurred and S. M. Morforski was badly burned. It is believed that the explosion shattered the foundations of the cast house, causing its collapse.