

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 174

(Telegram.)

VICTORIA, B.C., April 4, 1900.

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

Joseph Martin, Attorney-General; Smith Curtis, Minister of Mines; J. Stuart Yates, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works; George W. Beebe, Provincial Secretary; Cory S. Ryder, Minister of Finance and Agriculture. This makes one more portfolio than ever held separately before. Appointment of President of the Council without portfolio expected this week.

THOS. R. McINNES.

(Telegram, in cipher.)

OTTAWA, April 9, 1900.

Hon. THOS. R. McINNES,
Government House, Victoria, B.C.

Your report received seventh instant. After giving it and all the circumstances every consideration Privy Council is of the opinion that the existing Legislature should either be immediately summoned to meet or immediately dissolved and an appeal made without any delay to the people. The postponement of such a meeting or appeal cannot, in opinion of Privy Council, be justified. Please report your action by wire.

R. W. SCOTT.

(Telegram, in cipher.)

VICTORIA, April 10, 1900.

Hon. R. W. SCOTT,
Ottawa.

Legislature dissolved to-day in accordance with opinion of Privy Council as contained in your telegram of to-day. Writs for general election issued to-day, nomination 26th May, polling 9th June, writs returnable 30th June. Legislature summoned to meet on 5th July. Provisions of Election Act make it impossible for elections now to be held before 10th May, and on 7th May said Act intervenes and requires elections to be held on revised lists. Am writing.

THOS. R. McINNES.

(Telegram, in cipher.)

OTTAWA, April 12, 1900.

Hon. THOS. R. McINNES,
Government House, Victoria, B.C.

What legal provision makes your action as to date of election depend upon another revision of the voters' lists. You have had a revision within six months. Please wire answer.

R. W. SCOTT.