Warm Time At Sooke

Delegates at the Liberal Convention Get Back at the Premier.

His Departure From the Meeting Hurried by a Shower of Missiles.

Opposition Candidates Hold a Successful Meeting After He Left.

"I think too much of the dignity of the position I occupy and I won't speak if those blackguards don't go out." The Premier had become quite dramatic over a trifling interruption at his meeting at Sooke on Monday night. "This is my forty-third meeting in the present campaign," he continued, "and until to-night I have never been insulted so grossly before. You are Boers down in that corner."

A Voice—"And you are old Paul Kruger. Remember how you treated us at the convention in Vancouver."

Chairman Perry Mills then came to his leader's rescue and asked the boys to go out. This they seemed willing to do, but wanted Mr. Mills to come out with them, a proposition which he did not appear desirous of accepting. He, however, appealed to the meeting, and being assured by Mr. Fraser and several other Martinite visitors that the people were quite anxious to hear the much heard of Premier, he turned the stream of his persuasive eloquence upon that dignitary, and the dignitary relented, and with seemly hesitation consented once more to go on.

The Premier had worked his way through the now thread-bare speech to the section that deals with roads, trails and bridges, and had here met with a question or two, in the course of which the long pent up feelings of two or three members of the Sooke delegation to the Liberal convention at Vancouver had been set free, with the results that Mr. Martin went off into heroics about dignity and insults, and could only be persuaded as a great favor to that part of the riding of Esquimalt to continue his speech to its hour and three-quarter length. Mr. Martin, who had hustled away from the Colwood meeting of the afternoon, after having talked it out, had begun his Sooke meeting rather late. Some delay was then experienced in getting a chairman. Mr. John Murray, Mr. John Muir and some others were appealed to, but they all declined the honor. Fortunately, however, for the government, the Premier had taken Mr. Perry Mills, of Victoria, out with him, and so the gap was stopped and the meeting got underway.

The re-enactment of the anti-Japanese measures, the government ownership of railways and the road to be built from Victoria to Midway, by which the Kootenay miners were to be fed on butter and eggs from Sooke, occupied the greater portion of his time after his feelings, much fraught by the little scene, had been restored. He also talked for about half an hour upon the virtues of that "bad man Martin." This gave the usual opportunity to revel in the glories of Manitoba disallowance, as well as the Semlin government during the days of his attorney-generalship. Any topic throughout the speech appeared to afford a pretext for denouncing the C. P. R. as a most oppressive monopoly.

A question, however, from the corner designated by the Premier as "blackguards"—in Rossland they had been "white-shirted hoboes"—brought his speech down, however, to more local issues, and the Premier declared that if returned to power he fully intended to cut off one of the members from the Esquimalt division. A further question from Mr. Higgins led to a renewal of Mr. Martin's attack upon the standing and utility of Independent candidates. These he attacked most vigorously, but refrained from saying much about Mr. Higgins' candidacy, nor did he renew the "roasting" of Mr. Hayward which he had undertaken at Colwood.

Referring to the stand taken by Mr. Macpherson at the government meeting in Vancouver on Thursday last, the Premier explained that his follower's (Macpherson's) reference to Mr. John Brown, of New Westminster, as the one honest man on the government side, was but a slip of the tongue, and meant nothing at all.

It was about 11 o'clock when the Premier walked in silence down the hall. The other candidates were there waiting to speak, and their number had been increased by the arrival of Mr. Roberts and some other gentlemen from town. Mr. Martin, however, told the meeting that he had urgent business in Victoria, and slipped away, quitting the meeting and the other speakers just as he had done at the Colwood meeting a few hours before. From the sound of hurrying feet and a certain obnoxious odor outside, it was generally understood that the Premier's haste in departure was somewhat accelerated and that some material reason can now be given for some truly outraged feelings.

Before departing with his leader, Mr. Fraser confessed his faith in the Martinite symbol and professed a readiness to follow him to the end of either the government or the opposition benches.

The little government party having left, Mr. John Muir, the venerable patriarch of that district, was again asked to take the chair, which he at once did, and filled the office with both grace and dignity. After expressing his regret at the hasty departure of the Premier, he introduced Mr. C. E. Pooley.

Mr. Pooley, who was welcomed with a good round of applause, was glad once more to meet his old constituents. He was glad, too, to see so many of the ladies out; but, like the chairman—and indeed the whole audience—he regretted the fact that Mr. Martin had seen fit to slip away again, as he had done but the same afternoon at Colwood. He had expected to have an opportunity to speak to him at the evening meeting, but had been quite disappointed. This and the lateness of the hour would cause him to omit several things which he had intended to speak on at some length.

For eighteen years, Mr. Pooley continued, he had had the honor of representing the district of Esquimalt. He had enjoyed the fullest confidence of the people, and had continually striven to advance the interests of the district, while at the same time not being forgetful of those of the province at large. At present politics were in a much mixed muddle, a state of things for which Mr. Martin and Lieutenant-Governor McInnes were entirely accountable. In 1897, as a result of the election, the two parties mustered 19 of a following for each. The Lieutenant-Governor considered that Mr. Turner had lost the confidence of the people, and most unconstitutionally tried to call in Mr. Robert Beaven, a gentleman who had been a candidate at the election then just past, but who had not succeeded in securing a seat in the assembly. Mr. Turner was summarily dismissed—but why? For the sole reason that Mr. Turner would not take the Governor's son into the cabinet. To such a step Mr. Pooley had himself been much opposed, and with the others, though without any loss—for as president of the council he drew no salary—went out from office. For this same refusal of Mr. Turner's the Lieutenant-Governor tried to follow up the charge about the special warrants, and although the commission of a hostile government had completely exonerated Mr. Turner, Governor McInnes had refused to withdraw his charge, and was not man enough to say that he had made a mistake.

But Mr. Beaven would not make a cabinet minister out of the son, and so at last Mr. Semlin was asked to form an administration. The death of Mr. Neilson and Mr. Henderson's defection had enabled this government to exist for some time, but at last it fell through also, when, in contradiction to all custom of politics, Mr. Martin, who had not a single follower in the house, was made first minister. The assembly protested, but to no avail, and so, in a protest that could not be pigeon-holed, they all walked out. (Applause.) As a result, the intimation had come from Ottawa that unless Mr. Martin were returned to power, Mr. McInnes was to be put out of office. (Applause.) Thus there was a double object to be served on the 9th of June by voting against the Martin government. (Applause.)

Without taking up too much time, the speaker could not but refer to Mr. Martin's childish cry for the re-enactment of the anti-Japanese measures that have been disallowed. At Colwood he had spoken of these measures as but grudgingly given. But what were the records? The Labor Act had been freely passed by the Turner government; but upon the Deane-Helgesen resolution, advocating the increase of the Chinese tax, this same Mr. Martin, who now prates about Mongolian labor, cried out: "This is not our business—it's a federal matter. I'll vote against it." So he did.

The Premier's attempt, too, to drag in the Manitoba disallowance matter as an illustration, was rather bad, too. The illustrations differ widely and are with different people. There the matter was an issue of Canadian politics, but here it was an Imperial question, and surely no loyal Canadian would withstand the hope of the home authorities that the colony will accept the position for the time and so assist the Motherland. British Columbia has rendered its quota for the national defence, and will do so again if need be; but surely she would not hamper the Empire, would not act like a child, but would play the patriot for a short time, when the natural solution of the matter would be reached.

Regarding Mr. Martin's railway scheme, a great deal of it was arrant nonsense. A road was to be built from Victoria to take up the Sooke produce to the Kootenay country, and in the next breath the Premier talked of another line to be built a short distance from the fertile districts of Washington state, to do the same sort of producecarrying trade. The Corbin scheme of which Mr. Martin talked had been rejected both in Victoria and at Ottawa, and that because it intended taking the ore of this country out of the country for smelting purposes, and thus build up the American industries at our expense. Surely the electors of Sooke would not be parties to any such scheme as that.

Mr. Pooley then briefly referred to the way in which the eight-hour law was rushed through on the last day, and to several other pieces of legislation which he had been opposed to; and wound up his able speech by a stirring appeal to the electorate to go to the polls on the 9th of June and put an end to the reckless graceful regime at present being carried on. He then sat down amidst prolonged applause.

Mr. Muir then called upon Mr. Hayward, an independent candidate for the honors of Esquimalt. That gentleman had been at the Colwood meeting, where Premier Martin had attempted to put him on toast, and then had left. Nothing daunted, Mr. Hayward had followed the Premier up, only, however, to be silenced by him the second time with his opposition to the Premier was thorough-going. He objected to his platform, he objected to the man himself, and he objected to the way in which he had obtained and was holding his present power. The province had suffered indignity at this man's hands in being robbed of its rightful heritage of responsible government for the past four months. Not one of the Martin ministers had a seat, and while the Premier boasted of his farmer minister, Mr. Beebe, the latter could know but little of his calling, otherwise he had been made minister of agriculture.

Mr. Hayward then referred to some of the objections to the government's policy upon the Mongolian question and the government ownership of railways, and claimed that trunk wagon roads should receive more attention at the hands of the administration. These were the poor man's railroad and upon them much of the development of the province depended. Mr. Hayward then sat down amidst such a clapping of hands as denoted a good popularity throughout that section.

Mr. Higgins followed. In the few minutes he spoke, government ownership of railways was the chief theme. Against these he earnestly warned the electorate. It was the most important item on the government's slate, and the Premier seemed to rely upon it very largely to secure his return to power; but instead of helping him out, this was the rock upon which he would find shipwreck.

Mr. Eberts then spoke for half an hour. In a very aggressive speech he ably attacked the government platform, and section after section suffered severely under his onslaught. Of these the chief were the items upon the Mongolian question and the state ownership of railways. Both were very important matters, and by hasty indifference or ill-considered following, it would be very easy to saddle the province with a load that would weigh very heavily upon even our children's children.

From these matters he turned to the government itself. For two years back the Lieutenant-Governor had robbed the people of their rights and had given them personal government at his own pleasure. And of what a sort it had been! The province had seen its First Minister rushing about frantically to pick up cabinet ministers. There had been the Ryder travesty, and to-day there was a cabinet of odds and ends picked up at random, and not one of them enjoying a seat. Responsible government was government for the people and by the people, but today this province had government for Mr. McInnes and by Mr. Martin, purely personal and strictly irresponsible.

The Premier talked a great deal about the workingman, but it was blatant riffraff. His deeds belied it all. While crying out for labor he stretched out his hands and closed the hospitals against them in their day of need. The whole platform was a myth (laughter) and the people were not being gulled by it. On the 9th of June they would rise in their might, and that would be the end of the farce. (Prolonged applause.)

Mr. Eberts then resumed his seat, and after the usual vote of thanks the meeting dispersed.

AT LILLOOET.

Hon. Joseph Martin Gets a Decidedly Cool Reception.

The Hon. Joseph Martin held a political meeting at Lillooet on Tuesday evening, the 15th inst, and received a very cool reception. The people of Lillooet do not believe in a one man government. Mr. Martin's speech was simply the warmed over leavings from his Clinton oratorical banquet and was rejected by the intelligent people of Lillooet as worthless.

At the close of Mr. Martin's speech, which was long and windy, the chairman called on Mr. Smith, who received a most enthusiastic reception. Mr. Smith made a short speech, showing the fallacy of Mr. Martin's railway policy.

After Mr. Smith got through with his speech the chairman called on Mr. Skinner, a strong Martinite. Mr. Skinner tried very hard to say something, but his tongue refused to do its duty. After a few incoherent remarks, he resumed his seat.

MEETING AT HOPE.

Mr. Murphy Receives a Rousing Reception—Vote of Confidence.

A public meeting was held at Mr. Wardle's store on Friday, May 18th in the interests of Mr. Dennis Murphy, opposition candidate for West Yale. Mr. Wardle, J. P. acted as chairman. Mr. Murphy took the floor and apologised to the audience for not appearing before them sooner. He was sorry that no opposition was here to-night, but it was not his (Mr. Murphy's) fault; he had written to the hon. provincial secretary to join in a series of meetings in the riding, and he had a letter from Mr. Beebe stating that owing to the great pressure of business at Victoria, he could not possibly do so. He did not believe in Mr. Beebe being flanked by the premier, McQueen, or any other man. Mr. Murphy then stated why he opposed Mr. Martin, and dwelt at some length on the peculiar condition the country found itself in as a result of the action of the lieutenant-governor. He next scored Mr. Martin for the disallowance of some sixteen acts passed by the Semlin-Cotton government; he also scored the premier for the dismissed justices of the peace of the province ,the result of which has been that in some localities, for instance at Clinton, the government has been at a loss to find a gentleman who will hold a commission. He ventured to say that no law has ever been passed that had done more harm to the country than the so called Alien Exclusion Act, and the premier in the last session had prevented its repeal. Mr. Murphy then referred at some length to the Liquor License Act; he contended that it was an insult to the intelligent saloon keepers in the province that they should be forced to swear they were not felons before being granted a license, and explained the various objectionable features of the measure. Mr. Martin stated at the past session that he was the father of the act, and that it was a good act, yet inside of a month he had his platform out saying he would amend it. Mr. Murphy then explained the premier's shuffle in respect to the Redistribution Act, and also dealt with premier and the lieutenant-governor personally responsible that no vote of supply was passed by the house, consequently no work had been done on the roads, at the time it was most needed, but lately men had been put to work by special warrant for the purpose of catching votes. He concluded by the action of the lieutenant-governor in giving Mr. Beaven and Mr. Semlin only five days to form a cabinet, whilst he gave Mr. Martin, on the dismissal of Mr. Semlin all the time he wanted. He then severely criticised the premier in appointing men to his cabinet who were not the choice of the people. Mr. Brown was before the people and was turned down, so we have a government with only one man who represents the people, Mr. Murphy then took up the premier's platform; he first stated that he was an independent, strictly in accord with Mr. Martin, and prepared to give his loyal support to any party that would give the country honest, progressive government. He then alluded to the Torrens System of Registration, he showed how the premier tried to hoodwink the people in this matter, because it only calls for an act of the executive to bring it into law. He then dwelt in a very able manner with the Mongolian question. He stated that Mr. Martin showed his inconsistency when he wants to re-establish the London agency, for when he was Attorney-General, the government of which he was a member did away with the office. He was strictly in accord with the proposed expenditure on roads, trails and bridges, should be employed in these works in preference to those who have to pay taxes. He further believed that the question of increased taxation must be closely considered, and that with proper reforms in other branches of the government service, the work of properly opening up the country could be carried on without unduly increasing the burden of taxation. He next took up the question of railways, and showed the impracticility of Mr. Martin's scheme. Mr. Curtis, the Minister of Mines, had asserted that he would carry the products of the Fraser to the Kootenay, and bring the ore back to the Coast smelters, when everyone knows the smelting would be done in Kootenay when everything necessary for the purpose is found. The audience was well aware that a charter was granted to the V. V. & E. railway, and the contract let, and they are all aware that the present premier was a member of the government which was responsible for the destruction of that contract, and he had it from the authority of the most reliable contractor of this province, that if the contract had not been cancelled, the iron horse would have been running to Hope to-day. In respect to the asylum for the deaf and dumb, he thought it was only after appointing his cabinet that Mr. Martin thought it necessary to build one. Mr. Murphy then dwelt with some local matters which would directly benefit the people here; he would support to his utmost ability the building of a waggon road from Hope to Princeton. Mr. Murphy sat down amidst great applause. It was moved by Mr. Lawrence and seconded by Mr. Wadsworth that Mr. Murphy has the confidence of the meeting, and out of some forty present, only two dissented. A vote of thanks was carried unanimously for the very able manner Mr. Wardle presided over the meeting.

AN EXCELLENT REASON.

"Freddy, what makes you talk from morning till night?"

"So's I'll be good comp'ny fer myself."—Indianapolis Journal.

Martinites At A.O.U.W. Hall

Speeches by the Government Candidates and Finance Minister

Premier Dangles the Glittering Railway Bait Before the Electors

Curiosity drew a large audience to the A. O. U. W. hall last evening, when addresses were delivered by the four government candidates and Hon. J. C. Brown, of New Westminster, finance minister. A number of ladies were present, and the audience displayed good humor at the rather wearisome speeches. A feature of the meeting was the attempt by Premier Martin to catch votes by dangling before the electors a glittering promise to give Victoria a transcontinental railway system by the building of the Coast-Kootenay line, with connections with the Great Northern and the Grand Trunk systems. The speeches were long and tiresome, and before the conclusion of the meeting many had left the hall.

Mr. H. T. Williams took the chair. It gave him pleasure to know that the elections were to be run on "no-party" lines. The country, he thought, was in sympathy with the government. He introduced Mr. J. C. Brown as the first speaker.

Mr. Brown said he was in hearty sympathy with Mr. Martin's platform, which was a clean, clear-cut document. In regard to the first plank, abolishing the $200 deposit, he had been asked why he had the audacity to aspire to be a member of the legislature and replied that that was the privilege of a British subject. He was a workingman, and all bad laws should be wiped out; and one of them was the $200 deposit law for candidates. It should not be exacted from a poor man. In regard to the eight-hour law, he did not think it had done much damage in the Kootenays. The primary object of the law was to have the work "go round" and let everybody be happy. Taking up the Mongolian question, he assured his audience he did not employ Chinese, nor ever did, which evoked loud applause. There was an impression abroad that the government intended to exclude Chinese from British Columbia. That was a fallacy. The government had not the power, but it would re-enact restrictive legislation He was heartily in support of the "bad man Martin"—that man who had done so much for Manitoba, smashing the great monopoly of the C. P. R. Another clause in Mr. Martin's platform, the proposal to have government inspection to all public works, was a good one. A deaf and dumb institute he also favored. The government had been sending out of the province a large sum to support only six individuals—now there were more. He closed by hoping to be one of the fortunates on June 9. (Applause.)

Ald. Beckwith was the next speaker. He was pleased to see so many ladies present, and if elected he would advocate the women's suffrage. (Applause.) We were behind other parts of Canada in this respect. He appeared on the government ticket with a great deal of satisfaction, and was pleased to support the government platform. He had found fair treatment from Mr. Martin in business matters, and that gentleman was worthy of support.

Taking up as a first point Mr. Helmcken and the Clover Point rifle range, Ald. Beckwith devoted twenty minutes to an attempt to show by argument and the production of numerous documents, that Mr. Helmcken has asked an exorbitant price for his property.

Mr. Helmcken found it necessary to rise in the audience and correct one of the speaker's statements, to the effect that he (Mr. Helmcken had appeared before the court of revision and set a price on the property belonging to the Douglas estate.

Ald. Beckwith accepted the correction, and proceeding, dealt with the question of party lines. He was always opposed to the idea. It only meant working for one of the great parties of Canada. A rather peculiar thing had occurred recently—the action of the opposition nominating convention in nominating a Liberal on the ticket. (Laughter.) It was a most unbusiness-like action. Regarding the action of the city's representatives during the past year, he thought there was a great deal of difficulty between the city council and the school trustees, and amendments were required to the Municipal Clauses Act, but the city's members had acted with curious wisdom, as, when the needed amendments were asked for, giving Victoria the same privileges as other municipalities, they had opposed those amendments. He next dealt with the question of railways. The question of greatest importance to the city was railway connection. He approved of Mr. Martin's policy of government ownership in every respect. Mr. Turner, he contended, did not grasp the Coast-Kootenay proposition with much firmness. The Crow's Nest road was an unfortunate proposition, as it was taking a great deal of the trade to the East. It was of the most vital importance for the Coast people to stand by the Coast-Kootenay road. As regards the cost of the road, some of the estimates he had heard of were most mythical. Mr. Turner proposed to borrow $5,000,000 for subsidies; Mr. Martin proposed to borrow money, but to own the railways also. He concluded by saying he believed the tide was in favor of the present government.

A Voice—What about the Chinese?

Ald. Beckwith replied that much more pressure must be brought against the Ottawa authorities. Mr. Bostock was in touch with the Ottawa government, but he apparently was doing nothing to stop the influx of Chinese

Hon. J. C. Brown, minister of finance, the next speaker, was glad to see many Victoria friends. He could speak about the situation in the Fraser Valley, and he thought they had a dead thing there. (Laughter.) And up in the upper country, judging by the reports, he could say the "mountains of Kootenay were vocal with the name of Martin." (Renewed laughter.) All of the newspapers of the country were against the government. And some of them had been bought up recently—it was a case of "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." He could give them a pointer about the newspaper press. It was endeavoring to gain an advantage by fooling the people about the issues. He told a story of a political meeting addressed by himself on the Mainland, when he got a good hearing, and not a frost, as was reported. There were two main factors in an election—popular feeling and good candidates. The government had both with them—the electors were "on fire" for the government programme. There were numerous parties in the field—the straight Conservatives and the Conservatives who were not straight. (Laughter.) He was not, he explained, casting any discredit on true Conservatives—those who were opposed to meddling as a party in provincial politics. Then there was the Cotton party—or what was left of it—only a few wriggling remnants, and if the Martin government was defeated, those parties could not form a government. As regards the railway question, government ownership was the only way to stifle monopoly. He cited the government construction of the Nakusp & Slocan railway as proof that the policy of government ownership was a good one. He did not agree with Mr. Turner in his estimate of the cost of constructing railways in British Columbia. In regard to Oriental immigration, his position and that of the government was this—they wanted a British province, and this was impossible if the influx of Chinese and Japanese continued. The immigration must be stopped. (Applause.) But Imperial interests must not be infringed upon. The province should simply take the position that immigration must stop. Mr. Brown closed by contrasting the advantages of the policies of the government and the opposition. The triumph of the government would mean the triumph of the province, in his opinion. Nature had marked out for the province a glorious destiny, and the return of the government would assist it in reaching it.

Hon. J. Stuart Yates, the next speaker, first alluded to the fact that none of the newspapers of the province were supporting Mr. Martin. This was because they were bought up. He had only been in one other campaign—when he bumped up against Mr. Eberts, the strongest man in the Turner government of that time. There were one or two matters he wished to refer to. The question of railways—the government ownership of railways was a clause in Mr. Martin's platform which met with his hearty approval. It was the only way to stop the bonus evil. He would do all in his power, if elected, to oppose railway monopoly. In regard to the opposition, he contended it did not have a distinct policy. The only object appeared to be to "Kill Martin." (Laughter.) But if he "Kill Martin." (Laughter.) But if Martin was killed, what would the opposition do if it got into the house? They could not form a government.

A gentleman here rose in the audience and wanted to ask a question, but there were cries of "put him out," and he was hurriedly ejected by a policeman.

Mr. Yates, when the disturbance had subsided, remarked that the government could be depended upon to always deal promptly with such matters. He closed by expressing his pleasure at being permitted to stand up and fight the battle on Mr. Martin's platform. He had insisted on knowing what was Mr. Martin's platform before he had consented to join his government.

Hon. Joseph Martin was greeted with stamping of feet and hand clapping as he came forward. He opened by referring to the silk meeting of the board of trade. It was an old trick of the board of trade to discuss politics at business meetings. But the laws which were denounced were not his laws, but one passed by the Turner administration. He might put in some defence of his laws as they stand, but he would leave their defence in the hands of the gentlemen responsible for those laws. Mr. Martin again complained of the attitude of the newspapers. The Colonist had consistently opposed him, but the Times—well, he did not know where the Times, "was at" (laughter.) He did not think it mattered very much any way (renewed laughter and applause.) In regard to the question of railways, six years ago, the city was very much interested in railway communication; and on that occasion the opposition candidates were defeated and as they did nothing, so did the government which promised the railway. But they had not got the railway. The province was in a most unfortunate position—it was in the hands of a gigantic company—the C. P. R. In Mackenzie's time it was decided to have the terminus of the C. P. R. at Esquimalt, but on a private corporation getting hold of the charter, it was at once changed to the Mainland. The C. P. R. had always ignored the island. But he could say for the government that while he did not intend to injure Vancouver, but would be a government for the whole province, justice would be done the island and the whole province. As to the C. P. R., the country would perhaps be better off without it, as it wanted the cream of the business. The duty of the government was to take up the cause of the people and fight a great corporation like the C. P. R. The policy of the government had been approved of in some parts of the country; but in Victoria the government's opponents said the proposition was all wrong. There was only one way of testing the matter, and that was to vote for the government and not vote for the men who promise nothing.

The Coast-Kootenay road would be but the beginning of a system which would extend all over the province. He contended that railways were a good investment, and had proved so in all parts of the Dominion. If British Columbia could not afford to build railways it should build them anyhow, and take chances, they could lose nothing (laughter.) The Coast-Kootenay road, he thought, would be a paying proposition right from the start. Mr. Martin dealt with the railway question, and before he had left this point numerous people had become tired and left the hall. The speaker's arguments consisted chiefly in a contention that the government could build railways if private individuals could do it with profit. The Northern Pacific was, he assured his hearers, anxious to get into Victoria, and would connect with the Coast-Kootenay line. All these advantages of railway connection, Pullman cars and all that sort of thing could be obtained by voting for the government on June 9th. The Coast-Kootenay line should be made a trunk line. The Grand Trunk Company would work with the Great Northern and thus British Columbia would have another through line. He noticed that Mr. Turner was no longer occupying the position of leader of the government. This announcement, he contended, meant he was a discarded politician, and incapable of the leadership Yet he was considered good enough for Victoria! This was his idea of moss backs. The day of these men was past, a new generation had taken control of things and the people wanted a new deal. He closed by exhorting his hearers to turn down the old crowd. He had no idea that the government candidates would be elected in Victoria, they would all be elected or all defeated. The contest in this city was being watched with great interest. It was the most important election ever held in the province.

The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman, and the singing of "God Save the Queen."

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LOCAL NEWS.

Anti-Martin.—R. H. Wood, secretary of Mr. Neill's central committee, is authority for the statement that Mr. Neill is positively running as an anti-Martinite in Alberni.

For Fire Funds.—The Colonist has handed to Mayor Hayward $3 for the Ottawa and Hull relief fund, and $2.50 for the Sandon fund; subscribed by the Cedar Hill school.

Healthy Cattle.—A report from Inspector Gibbons of the department of agriculture, who has been on a tour through the Chilliwack valley, states that the cattle in that section are practically free from disease, only two being affected—one from tuberculosis.

Dawson Freights.—The day prior to the sailing of the Cottage City—May 15—a number of White Pass railway officials left for Dawson to arrange rates for this season's through traffic. They estimate that 25 per cent. more freight will go in this season than last.

Passed the Test.—The following gentlemen have successfully passed the examinations held at the government assay office and are now authorized to practise as assayers in this province: J. O'Sullivan, Vancouver; D. Whittaker, Victoria, and J. H. Tretheway, Kaslo.

Too Many Japs.—The Kobe Herald of May 1, received by the steamer Kinshiu Maru, says: "The Japanese consul telegraphs from Vancouver that 4,500 Japanese have flocked into Canada during the present month, and that an anti-Japanese immigration agitation is almost inevitable unless some check is put upon this movement."

Judge Swan Dead.—The death occurred at Port Townsend on Friday of Judge James G. Swan, one of the pioneers of the Sound country. For many years he took a deep interest in the fishing industry, being the first to introduce black cod to the markets. He also made a study of seal life and wrote interesting papers thereon.

The Cassiar Candidates.—News was received by the steamer Cottage City that Capt. Irving and C. W. D. Clifford arrived at Bennett on Tuesday last and were to address a political meeting on Thursday last. They went up by the steamer Danube after holding some successful meetings at Port Simpson. The residents of Bennett are planning a big Queen's Birthday celebration.

Injunction Continued.—In supreme court chambers yesterday, counsel for the plaintiff in Muirhead v. the City, an action brought by Mr. Muirhead for damages on account of the death of Mr. Holmes, whose estate he is the executor of, made application for the continuance of the injunction restraining the city from tearing down the old Esquimalt Elliot bridge. The motion stands over until to-morrow, the injunction being continued in the meantime. This means that the old eyesore stands during the celebration.

Important Deal.—Mr. J. J. Palmer, of the firm of Christie & Palmer, of Toronto, yesterday closed a long lease for the lime land and timber at Rosey Bank, and will immediately erect a large kiln there. The contract with the builders of the kiln calls for it to be ready in sixty days from date. The large kiln at Cable Bay, Texada Island, is also owned by Messrs. Christie & Palmer, of Toronto, and is now running full blast, and the lime being turned out is of the highest grade. Messrs. Kingham & Co., of Victoria, have been appointed agents for the Marble Bay Lime, and have now a stock on hand.

Borne to the Grave.—The funeral of the late R. B. Richardson occurred on Sunday afternoon, Rev. Mr. Knox conducting the services at the residence, Catherine street, and at the graveside. There was a large attendance of friends, and the following gentlemen acted as pall-bearers: Messrs. J. H. Meldram, S. Duck, A. McKenzie, S. M. Okell, L. Goodacre and H. G. Hall, P. M. Yesterday morning the funeral of the late Mrs. Johnson took place from the residence of her son-in-law, E. Williams, John street, and later from St. Andrew's R. C. cathedral, where services were conducted by Rev. Father Althoff. The pall-bearers were Messrs. J. A. Coughlan, D. Divero, J. Porter and A. Byrngolfson.

"Charlie" Sheppard Dead.—Charles James Sheppard, the only son of Henry W. Sheppard, ex-chief of police, died on Sunday morning at the Jubilee hospital, after an illness extending over eight months. The deceased was a very popular young man, having a large circle of friends in this, his native city. He would have attained his eighteenth birthday next month. The young man distinguished himself for a number of years at the picnics of the Caledonian Society by carrying off the medals for the best-dressed boy in Highland costume. He had also been a bugler in the Fifth Regiment for three years. For some months previous to his illness he was employed by Messr. John Piercy & Co. Besides his father, a sister and a half-brother—Private Whiteley, serving with the first Canadian contingent in South Africa—survive him. The funeral will take place at 2:30 to-morrow afternoon from the family residence, Hill street, and later at St. John's church.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The Indian famine relief committee in New York report $28,000 received up to date.

The banking house of Neilson & Co., Pentwater, Michigan, failed to open its doors yesterday. The liabilities are unofficially estimated at $75,000 to $100,000. It is impossible at this time to estimate the assets.

An influential delegation, consisting of all bank managers of the city waited upon Hon. Mr. Davidson at Winnipeg yesterday to protest against the tax which the government has announced is to be levied on the banking institutions.

The guards at the principal fortifications at Halifax have been doubled, owing, it is hinted, to the recent dynamite scares at the Welland canal locks.

President Mellen, of N. P. R., has notified the agents of that line in Montreal, as well as the Ottawa government, that the construction in Manitoba will be abandoned, and the branch already built will be sold to the highest bidder. This action is said to be due to the C. P. R. paralleling the N. P. lines in that province.

Mother—Was your aunt glad to see you and Tommy and Frankie and Fred?

Johnny—Yes, ma'am.

Mother—Did she invite you to call again?

Johnny—Yes; and she told us to bring you and papa and Susie and the dog next time.—Harlem Life.

Without A License Law.

Premier Martin Says Anybody Can Sell Liquor in the Districts.

Amounts Paid For Licenses to Be Returned to the Payers.

The big fir tree at Colwood about which modern times had erected a cyclists' rest, was further surrounded yesterday afternoon by rows of planks by Mine Host Demers for an open air meeting, but the wind was blowing strongly, and so the political camp meeting was carried over to the school house. School was in session, but as Premier Martin called the meeting that did not count, and the children were delighted to be turned out in favor of their elders.

The electorate turned out in large numbers, and shortly after half-past three Mr. A. J. Fraser, of Metchosin, took the chair and at once introduced Mr. Martin to the meeting.

Mr. Martin announced that he would speak for an hour and then leave the meeting to others, as he noticed Mr. Pooley, Mr. Haywood and Mr. Higgins were present. In a humorous way the Premier then attacked the opposition generally because of its divisions and lack in leadership. Many of them agreed with much of the government platform, but all objected to that bad man Martin. This was the one point upon which they united. It was not the principles, but the man with a bad name.

A Voice—Why don't you change the name? (Laughter.)

Mr. Martin—"Well, that might help." He then took up Mr. Hayward's platform and ridiculed it as ungrammatical. He had been a schoolmaster himself, and as such he began to look for subject, verb, and ended by declaring that there was no object there at any rate.

Mr. Hayward's stand against the actions of the Lieutenant-Governor was then discussed at some length. During this a rather amusing incident was occasioned by the Premier attempting to catechise the candidates present as to whom the Governor should have called when Mr. Semlin had lost the confidence of the house. To this Messrs. Pooley and Higgins both agreed that Mr. Turner, leader of the opposition, should have been called in. Mr. Hayward went farther and stated that Mr. Martin was the last man that should have been selected for that honor.

Referring to the Semlin government, Mr. Martin dated its downfall from the day when in order to effect certain changes of principles, he (the speaker) had been weeded out. The chief change had been upon the question of Mongolian labor. This, he charged, was brought about by the C. P. R. through Mr. Cotton, who was that company's agent.

Regarding the premiership, Mr. Martin continued, the Governor could not call on anyone else than himself. He was the fittest man.

A Voice—You think so.

Mr. Martin—Yes, I do, and so does this province.

Voice—Oh, you're not so many.

After speaking for some time further upon the Mongolian question, the B. C. Southern land grant and the Nanaimo harbor coal grant, the Premier explained his policy regarding roads, trails and bridges. No longer would the reply of "no money" be heard as an excuse for not building these public works. Money was to be borrowed, and the increased facilities would greatly increase the number of tax payers who would have to repay it. There was a risk no doubt, but if the province was not worth opening up, what was it worth? Bonds would be sold and the works pushed forward just as was done in the cities.

Mr. Pooley—Is this to be by way of local improvement and each place pay for its own?

Mr. Martin—No; the province generally would pay.

Upon the government railway, the Premier repeated the remarks made by him all over the Mainland, but for convenience sake replaced the products of the Lower Fraser country with those of Vancouver Island. It was but 200 miles from Victoria to the Kootenay, and the points could and must be united. This road would compete with the C. P. R., but it would pay from the start.

Mr. Martin then spoke at some length upon his old standing in the Greenway and Semlin governments, claiming to have been the one pure man and upright amongst them all. He was "bad" because he would not go into deals and share up grafts. The newspapers were against him and so were the lawyers, but as yet no charge had been made to stick. Upon this matter he talked on for about an hour, and then came back to the Victoria-Kootenay railway. To a question from Mr. Perry Mills he replied that it would cost about $15,000 per mile and not more than six or eight millions of dollars in all. The country was an easy one to build in and the Hope Pass was far from the difficult piece of work that so many people thought.

A Voice—Will you build a smelter here and give us a mill? (Laughter.)

Mr. Martin—If this is a proper place for a smelter one will be built here.

Turning again to Mr. Hayward's proclamation, Mr. Martin aggressively attacked the "Independent" candidacy position generally. He intended having two candidates here and would have nothing to do with anyone who did not come out straight for him. He had no special promises for Esquimalt, but would have his own candidate here.

A Voice—Won't you pay their deposits when they lose them? (Laughter.)

After speaking briefly upon the liquor license question, Mr. Martin was asked by Mr. Higgins the following question:

"Is there any liquor license law in the province to-day?"

Mr. Martin—"None at all."

"And can anyone sell?"

"Yes, and the licensed dealer has no recourse."

Mr. Martin then promised that the license moneys already sent in would be repaid upon application being made for it, and said he would see that he would attend to Mr. Demers' and Mr. Dubois', the local hotel keepers, cases and have the money sent out.

Mr. Martin then said that he must go to Sooke, and left the meeting, after speaking over two hours. A few followers tried to raise a cheer, but the crowd laughed and wended its way out.

The Premier having thus talked out the afternoon, no one else could be heard, but all the candidates followed him down to Sooke, in the hope that he could not get away from them there.