MINISTERS AT VERNON

Premier Turner Meets Leader of Opposition and His Candidate in Public Meeting.

Misstatements as to Alleged Offers to Mr. Joseph Martin Promptly Corrected.

Monday evening's public meeting in Vernon, called by the opposition candidate, Mr. Douald Graham, gave the electors of East Yale an opportunity of hearing both sides of provincial politics argued by the strong men of the parties. It had been announced as an opposition meeting, but so desirous were the people of Vernon and vicinity to listen to all the Premier and the Attorney-General had to say to them that the leader of the opposition with his customary courtesy consented to the government leaders having equal time with himself and Mr. Graham. Mr. Simmonds was chairman of the well conducted meeting, and the audience was large, intelligent and enthusiastic—determined apparently to accord, as the chairman had requested, equal toleration and courtesy to both sides.

Mr. Graham was of course the leader of the speaking. He expressed pleasure at seeing so many electors and so many of the ladies present, and was equally happy to have the company of the Premier and the Attorney-General, unquestionably the two best and strongest men in the ranks of the government. (Applause.) Mr. Ellison, the government candidate, he also looked upon as a man entitled to all respect, and he hoped sincerely that whatever the outcome of the contest might be, the long personal friendship existing between that gentleman and himself would remain undisturbed. (Applause.) Much as he respected Mr. Ellison he thought that gentleman's cause must be very weak, however, when he found it necessary to send to Victoria for the two biggest guns of the government to help him through his political battle. He was inclined to believe that they would prove Spanish guns, and ineffective in saving the man whom the party had put up as his opponent.

It had been argued against him during the campaign that he had done nothing during his term in the legislature, in the way of introducing legislation for the benefit of the district that would justify the electors in again sending him to the capital as their representative. With reference to this he contended that his action in the matter of the Boundary Creek railway bill alone justified him in asking a renewal of the confidence of the electorate. As to his not having secured for the district its fair share of the public expenditure, and being unable so to do owing to his position in the ranks of the opposition, he denied that the district had been slighted at all owing to his political proclivities, and he fully expected the leader of the government to take credit for having treated the district most fairly despite the fact that it was represented by an oppositionist. With reference to the Vernon jail, he saw that the News gave great credit to Mr. Ellison for having secured the necessary appropriation. (Applause.) He had not it was true made application for the jail appropriation before the estimates were framed, but when the estimates were before the house he had protested and most vigorously against the appropriation being overlooked. Then he rose to speak on the subject the heads of the Premier and the Minister of Mines came together; it seemed that they were saying to each other "can it be possible that we have overlooked anything," and after a brief consultation the minister of mines rose and gave the assurance that the jail matter would receive immediate attention. In fact a distinct promise was given then and there and nothing could have been more satisfactory. (Applause.) On his return to Vernon a short time later he had seen the editor of the Vernon News and suggested that he write an article strongly urging the construction of the jail, and he had also given it his attention again on returning to the capital. Mr. Price Ellison came there about this time, and he believed that he too did his share in helping the matter along. But for Mr. Ellison to claim all the credit for having got the jail reminded him very much of the experience of the jackdaw that arraying itself in a peacock's feathers strutted proudly in the sunlight and complacently observed to itself "what a fine bird I am." Now he (Mr. Graham) had no objection to Mr. Ellison pluming himself as much as he pleased, but at the same time he wanted all the peacock feathers that belonged to him—and some in this instance were his. (Laughter.)

A Voice—All right; you take the feathers; we get the jail. (Renewed laughter.)

Continuing, Mr. Graham proceeded to a consideration of the finances of the province, advancing many theoretical propositions to demonstrate that the country was on the verge of bankruptcy. The estimates showed, he said, a total contemplated expenditure of $2,047,041 for the year, deducting from which amount $620,200 for public works and buildings, left $1,384,541 as anticipated ordinary expenditure for the present year, without a cent for roads, streets and bridges—this being $1,000 in excess of the revenue for the best year the province had ever seen. The $5,000,000 loan would require in sinking fund and interest a sum of $200,000 annually; railway guarantees called for $54,000 more; and the repair of roads, streets and bridges, according to Col. Baker, and allowing nothing for new roads, took up $200,000 mire; make this amount $200,000 inclusive of a few new roads that would certainly have to be built, and according to his estimates the ordinaray business of the country could not be brought under $2,600,000 for the year, which meant that an annual deficit of a million dollars would be created. Doubling the taxation which British Columbians felt most and it would still leave an annual deficit of $750,000, and to make up this the province would be obliged to look principally to her mineral tax. True it was a great mining country, but he found from his analysis of the finances of the country that to meet the ordinary costs of government it meant that British Columbia would have to develop a mineral output equal to that of the entire British Empire. He could see only bankruptcy ahead under the present management of affairs, for in ten years the provincial revenue from all sources had been only $13,000,000, while the province in the same time had run behind at the rate of $500,000 per annum. Deducting the money for roads, etc., and it would be found that $200,000 per year was being taken out of funds to meet ordinary expenditure. And with all this, the present year, in which the province would go behind fully a million dollars was selected for the increase of salaries under the head of civil service and administration of justice by $85,750. It would be unfair to say that some of these increases were not necessary, due to the development and necessities of the province, but he saw that a long list of salaries in Victoria had been increased from $5 to as much as $25 per month. What business man, he asked, would think of raising salaries thus in a losing year? He could only look upon the adoption of the policy as intended to influence the votes of the members of the civil service and their friends. Before having the estimates, the opposition candidate took up the question of the railway loan and claimed that the province would be $300,000 short if this loan sold at 95, the highest price that could possibly be obtained inasmuch as Canadian securities were now selling only at 94 and a fraction—or $100,000 when the reserve from a former loan remaining in the treasury had been applied. Add to this the $700,000, and he expected to see the country go behind a full million this present year.

A Voice—And you'll be disappointed.

Taking Ontario's public debt he found that with an expenditure for the year of over three million dollars the population was called upon to contribute little more than $1 per capita. How did this contrast with the conditions of unhappy British Columbia, which could only hope for increased taxation when the country was forced to fall back on the loans for the general costs of government—which fortunately was not yet. He hoped the finance minister would reply to his criticism of British Columbia's financial condition, not by glowing words as to the magnificent future of the country, but by cold facts that the public would understand and not be taken in by as he had been. (Laughter.)

As to Hon. Mr. Turner's and Hon. Mr. Pooley's connection with these Klondike companies, a grave mistake had been made by both gentlemen, and while he personally regarded Mr. Turner as a man of the highest character and most unblemished integrity, he felt that he and his colleague had been shamefully made use of to their own disadvantage as well as that of the province in this connection. He wished to read from a number of English papers in the connection, and was proceeding to cite quotations when Hon. Mr. Turner interrupted.

"I would like before the gentleman proceeds," he said, "to know what English paper he is reading."

Mr. Graham, after some hesitation, confessed that it was the Westminster Columbian he held in his hand and was proceeding to read.

"I thought so," observed the Premier, and the audience smiled audibly at Mr. Graham's discomfiture.

"Well, at any rate," he said, "if the Columbian has incorrectly quoted these other British papers its editor could be held liable. He then proceeded to read numerous extracts, and argued that no charge more serious could be made against any cabinet ministers than this. Of course the scathing censure of such papers as the London Times were not without compensating advantages—for did not the Vernon News give its endorsation to the course pursued by the Premier and his colleagues. He mentioned this entire matter in sorrow rather than in anger, for personally as he had said, he had the fullest respect for the Premier and confidence in his integrity. (Applause.)

Next taking up the question of the White Valley coal lands, he maintained that the Attorney-General was guilty of most injudicious conduct inasmuch as the firm of Eberts & Taylor, of which he was a member, had acted as counsel for Mr. Heinze to the extent of having sent in a map asked for in connection with certain negotiations with the government, by the request of Mr. Heinze, an opposing party to the government's claim. He well knew that Mr. Eberts would do anything directly wrong, he said, but it was at the same time injudicious that his firm should have written a covering letter transmitting this particular map at the time that a dispute with the province was under settlement. In closing Mr. Graham dealt with the action of the government in the matter of the protection of the river banks at Revelstoke, and maintained that by the government not originally co-operating with the federal authorities or else adhering to its original proposition and insisting on the work being done by the Dominion, British Columbia had incurred a financial obligation of $47,000.

The Premier—No; $11,000.

Hon. Mr. Turner, rising to reply, was greeted with a veritable ovation. He was glad he said to be so kindly received, particularly as it was the first occasion that he had had of addressing an audience in this charming little city.

A Voice—May it not be the last. (Applause.)

He did not regard the arrangements for the meeting outlined by the chairman as quite in fairness, for he had been limited to three-quarters of an hour, and Mr. Graham had gone so extensively into finance and was so muddled in all his figures that it would take fully the time allowed to set him right, and make things clear to him. In addition Mr. Graham had seen fit to attack him personally on a private business matter, and also to attack the Attorney-General, who surely should have an opportunity to answer his accuser.

Voices—He will get it here.

In other words Mr. Graham had been permitted to throw down the gauntlet with the observation "answer that if you can and dare"—and then it was said in effect "you shan't have time to answer in." (That's not right.).

No, he did not think that it was fair either, particularly as Mr. Graham was so muddled in all his figures, that after he had got through his analysis of the country's finances it was doubtful indeed if he knew which was the debit and which the credit side. Laughter.) All the assertions that had been made with regard to the finances of the country had been gone over and refuted half a dozen times during the present campaign; it would take more than three-quarters of an hour to go over them again, particularly if the task was completed of making things plain to Mr. Graham and was the Attorney-General then to be refused all opportunity to reply to the accusations hurled at his head? (No, no.)

In regard to the "big guns" having been sent for to the capital to support Mr. Ellison, as asserted by that gentleman's opponent, he really thought that so far as Mr. Graham was concerned a popgun would have been quite sufficient. (Laughter.) It sounded very well as Mr. Graham said it that he and Mr. Eberts had been sent for in haste to support the cause of Mr. Ellison, but how about the leader of the opposition and Mr. Graham's candidature, and surely Mr. Graham regarded his leader as a "big gun," too. Ministers of the Crown were in a somewhat different position from private members, and he regarded it as their duty to go into the constituencies as much as possible, conversing with the people, ascertaining their views, and learning by coming in touch with the residents the exact requirements of the country. (Applause.) But it was said, how is it that the ministers are seen only on the eve of an election? It was not, he said, because they were not desirous at all times of being among the people, but it was certainly most appropriate that the ministers should go among the constituencies before a general election in order that the people might obtain from them an account of their stewardship, and put to them any questions that they might desire to have answered in regard to the direction of the country's business. (Applause.)

The advent of Mr. Joe Martin in politics of this province was next briefly touched upon, and the unique conglomeration described and commented upon that has won for itself the title of the party of the "Heavenly Twins." Mr. Martin was a well-known politician; he, as was well known, aspired to the leadership and the leadership only of whatever party he connected himself with, and his present entry into the field with the coalition immediately following, he regarded as decidedly unfair to the veteran head of the opposition, Mr. Semlin. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Martin, in the course of his remarks at Chilliwack had said that there would be no advantage in himself and his friends getting into the treasury, for Mr. Cotton had declared there was nothing to be found there if they did get in except I. O. U.'s, owing by the province to the Bank of British Columbia. Well, if the treasury was filled with the province's I. O. U.'s, all he could say was that it was well, for it would mean that the I. O. U.'s had been paid, or else how would they come into the possession of the government? (Laughter and cries of "That's so.")

Passing to Mr. Graham's charges and taking up the last arraignment first, he held that no public men in British Columbia had been subjected to such infamous abuses as he and his colleague, Hon. Mr. Pooley. The charge was plainly and practically that they were a pair of swindlers and had been enriching themselves out of the public funds. The opposition papers had said as much boldly and wit hthe additional information that they were prepared to substantiate their charges. Yet what was the fact? As soon as the effort was made to bring the real offender among the papers to justice and to account for its scandalous charges, first one and then another of those connected with it proceeded to shelter themselves from responsibility and shirk the answering of the gross libel of which they had been guilty, through the intricacies of company formation so utilized that they could not be successfully proceeded against in the civil courts, for not even the office chairs belonged to the contempible newspaper, and it had taken this means to escape legitimate and well-deserved punishment while endeavoring to ruin the good name and standing of a man who had been in the community for upwards of thirty years, and before the public all that time without a shadow of reproach having been cast upon his name. All the responsible people connected with the ownership and control of the Province having sheltered themselves behind technicalities to escape responsibility for the gross libel which they were so ready, according to their original statement, to substantiate, and the preparations having been made to proceed against this individual in the present court of assize, in order to elicit and place before the public the unvarnished facts, what had occurred? The defendant came forward, and despite his assertions of ability to prove his words, declared that he could not yet go to his trial. He wanted a further delay in order that a commission might be issued for the examination of his (Hon. Mr. Turner's) son, from whom it was apparently hoped some information might be obtained of disadvantage to his father. The excuse was that the son was secretary of a company, presumed to be the company in question, but in point of fact a different concern altogether. Here the matter stood at present—an example of the most contemptible slander, and cowardly evasion of responsibility that could be cited or imagined.

Passing over the policy of certain British papers to write down or damn with fant praise any scheme not spending heavily with them for advertising, the Premier outlined what he had been successful in accomplishing in the way of interesting British capital in the development of British Columbia's resources, and then proceeded to the consideration of the river banks matter at Revelstoke of which he gave a lucid and eminently satisfactory explanation, as testified by the many expressions of approval with which it was received by the audience.

The old cry, again raised by Mr. Graham, that the country was on the verge of utter and complete ruin; that the expenditure was hopelessly beyond the conditions of the province; and that there was no chance for the country whatever under the present government, he answered by pointing to the expansion of the revenue under this government—a growth of 130 per cent. in the past decade, from $608,000 in 1887 to $1,383,000 in 1897. And this to a steady and continuous expansion save in one single year to which the opposition were delighted to continually refer. In 1893-4, just before the last general election, the revenue did show an apparent decline from $1,000,000 to $821,000. When the matter was looked into, however, it was seen that the decline was not an actuality by any means, for the reduction of revenue had resulted immediately through an alteration in the land laws by which the sale of public lands was cut off, and a factor of revenue theretofore of great importance terminated. Naturally an apparent decline would be shown, when legislation had removed an important source of revenue, but the actual revenue produced even in that year would be found to have made an appreciable advance. (Applause.) In reference to the apparent over-expenditure of from $300,000 to $500,000 annually, of which the opposition orators and journals were so fond of speaking, what was the fact? To show or attempt to show an expenditure in excess of revenue the opposition had taken as a charge the debit and which the credit side. Laughter.) All the assertions that had been made with regard to the finances of the country had been gone over and refuted half a dozen times during the present campaign; it would take more than three-quarters of an hour to go over them again, particularly if the task was completed of making things plain to Mr. Graham and was the Attorney-General then to be refused all opportunity to reply to the accusations hurled at his head? (No, no.)

In regard to the "big guns" having been sent for to the capital to support Mr. Ellison, as asserted by that gentleman's opponent, he really thought that so far as Mr. Graham was concerned a popgun would have been quite sufficient. (Laughter.) It sounded very well as Mr. Graham said it that he and Mr. Eberts had been sent for in haste to support the cause of Mr. Ellison, but how about the leader of the opposition and Mr. Graham's candidature, and surely Mr. Graham regarded his leader as a "big gun," too. Ministers of the Crown were in a somewhat different position from private members, and he regarded it as their duty to go into the constituencies as much as possible, conversing with the people, ascertaining their views, and learning by coming in touch with the residents the exact requirements of the country. (Applause.) But it was said, how is it that the ministers are seen only on the eve of an election? It was not, he said, because they were not desirous at all times of being among the people, but it was certainly most appropriate that the ministers should go among the constituencies before a general election in order that the people might

include either such public works as schools, hospitals, assistance to medical men in thinly settled districts, etc., an additional expenditure of $1,854,000 being here involved. All would admit the excellence of the educational system of the province, and it was a source of pride to the province that notwithstanding the magnitude of the system and the number of teachers and others to whom it gave employment no breath of scandal had ever touched it, nor had any attempt been made to subordinate the servants of the department into political instruments. (Applause.)

The debt of the province of Ontario had been contrasted with that of British Columbia, but Mr. Graham in holding up the eastern province as an object lesson had not stated to the audience that so long settled had Ontario become that its affairs such as here were to a great extent in the hands of the province were there left to the municipalities, and the total debt of these was not three but fifty-nine million dollars, while the taxation mounted to as high as five per cent.—a figure never to be thought of in British Columbia. (Applause.) Comparisons between the two provinces were practically impossible, for the conditions were so essentially dissimilar, yet such comparisons were attempted by some at least of the opposition speakers, and in considering them it would be well to remember that Ontario was now a well settled country, not in the position of British Columbia as to the necessities of development; it was too, a compactly populated province; and its geographical character rendered it infinitely cheaper to make roads and other public improvements of the same nature than would ever be possible in British Columbia.

The result of the government's liberal railway policy in Kootenay was pointed to as an illustration of the beneficial results of that policy, the expansion of the revenue from Kootenay alone from $30,000 to $340,000 being surely proof enough for any sensible man of the wise direction of the affairs of the country in this quarter. As to the utilization of the loan of last session it was never contemplated to expend it all as Mr. Graham would infer, at the present time. Its utilization depended altogether on the completion of the various railway enterprises it was aimed to foster, and it could not be required for spending until the completion of these roads—the first of which would be the line from Penticton to Boundary Creek. (Applause.) The expenditure would necessarily, under the most favorable conditions, extend over a period of four or five years, but it had been necessary to get the loan passed in order to offer the railway propositions in such form that capitalists could be induced to take hold of them. (Applause.)

The accomplishments in the past in the way of railway building were traced as giving an outline of what might be looked for in the further pursuit of that policy for the opening up and making productive of the country, the Premier passing then to the consideration of the much greater proportion of expenditure to revenue before the taking in hand of these development works and now, while the proportion of salary costs to revenue ten years ago was also found to be much in excess of the proportion to-day. Touching upon the improvement of the provincial credit—the real, practical and only reliable gauge of what the best business men of the world thought of the character of the government and its business principles—the finance minister showed how in 1891 when the first open loan was placed on the London market and a fixed credit in reality established for the province, money was obtained at an actual cost of 3⅝ per cent. to the province. In 1893, on the occasion of the flotation of the next loan, the cost of money to the province was but 3 7-10 per cent., while in 1895 the standard of British Columbia securities had so materially improved that money was had by the province for 3 1-10 per cent.—the best price commanded by any of the British colonies save the Dominion as a whole. (Applause.) To-day British Columbia securities were listed in the London money market at 102, or an increase in value of 16 during the short period of seven years. The practical lesson of this consistent and continuous improvement of the provincial credit he felt sure would not be lost upon business men. The high credit of the province had been brought about through the keen financiers recognizing the wisdom and far-sightedness of the government's progressive development policy, and that the affairs of the country were not in the hands of boodlers or faddists but honest and capable business men. (Applause.) In conclusion the Premier again took occasion to refute the false statements contained in Mr. J. G. Brown's misleading analysis of the financial condition of the province, as published by the Westminster Columbian, and to maintain that the civil servants are not an over-paid or an incompetent body of men. The applause was loud and long continued when the honorable gentleman resumed his seat.

Mr. Semlin was next called by the chairman, but the audience had set its heart apparently upon listening to the Attorney-General instead, "Eberts! Eberts!" was the cry.

"I see there are no end of government supporters here, and they are determined to hear Mr. Eberts," observed the opposition chairman with a smile, and again the audience cheered and called for the Attorney-General.

"But I want it distinctly understood," continued Mr. Simmonds, "that this is Mr. Graham's meeting, and, it is Mr. Semlin who, according to the programme that has been placed in my hands, will next address you."

"Eberts! Eberts!" demanded the crowd in response.

In vain the chairman attempted to dissuade them; they were determined to hear the Attorney-General and to hear him without further waiting. At last it was announced that the convenors of the meeting would allow Hon. Mr. Eberts fifteen minutes, and with thanks for even this consideration, he came forward to be received with renewed cheers.

His first remarks were with reference to the statements of Mr. Graham, remarks which the Attorney-General pronounced utterly unfounded and worthy of no one of higher standard than that of a penny politician. He had endeavored to hold both Hon. Mr. Turner and himself (Hon. Mr. Eberts) up to ridicule throughout British Columbia, and he had done so with the introduction that personally both were very estimable men. "Eberts is a very fine fellow," he said in effect, "but I'll tell you something about him." That was just the way that tattling mischief makers usually commenced their slanders.

What Mr. Graham had attempted to show concerning himself was that he, as a minister of the Crown, had had something of questionable character to do with certain transactions between Mr. Heinze and the government that were influenced by the fact of the firm of Eberts & Taylor being at the same time the representatives of Mr. Heinze in connection with these coal lands in White valley. As a matter of fact, neither himself nor Mr. Taylor had been retained by Mr. Heinze; indeed, he was in England at the time, and knew nothing whatever concerning the matter. The bringing up of the matter, as Mr. Graham had introduced it, was an example of petty politics that would not commend itself to the people of British Columbia. (Applause.)

With reference to the jail at Vernon, the necessity for such an institution had first been brought to the notice of the government by Mr. Leonard Norris, the government agent, who reported that the lock-up was inadequate and unsafe, and had been told that the government would see what could be done. Had Mr. Graham said anything about it in his requisition for public works preliminary to the framing of the estimates? Not a word. The first that Mr. Graham was heard from in the matter was when the information got around in the House that the necessary appropriation would be included in the supplementary estimates. Then it was that Mr. Graham had aroused enough to speak of the jail matter on the floor of the House. Mr. Price Ellison had come down to Victoria, and had done everything in his power to secure the intimation that the desired appropriation would be included in the supplementaries. This was done, and the work would now be commenced within a few days, and construction, he hoped, carried on by home people. (Applause.)

Passing to what Mr. Graham had said with regard to the issues of the present contest, had he told of any policy which he and the members of the present opposition proposed to inaugurate, should they, by any ill chance for the country, succeed to power on the 9th July? On the contrary, while quite prepared to criticize, the opposition had nothing to proffer in exchange for the progressive development plan of the present administration. What this policy had already accomplished for British Columbia the honorable gentleman briefly outlined in the history of the various assisted railways, and the opening up of the districts tributary thereto. He predicted that as a result of the construction of the Kootenay railways, an output of fifteen million dollars in silver alone would be made from this section of British Columbia during the next five years, and one of the developed properties, the Payne mine, was at the present time returning dividends of a million and a half per annum. (Applause.) Would this have been possible, he asked, had the affairs of the country been administered by a parsimonious government, lacking in confidence in the country or in ability to promote its advancement? Nor was the Kootenay the only portion of the province the development of which the government was giving its best attention to. The aim of the administration was to promote the opening up of every section of the resourceful was now nearing completion that would not only open up another rich mineral area, but would place cheap fuel at the command of the smelters on Kootenay lake, reducing the price of that all-important factor, coke, from $14 or $15 a ton to $5 or $6, while at the same time bringing into the provincial treasury a royalty of five cents a ton upon every ton of the coal mined in the newly opened area and brought to this province. Could the opposition deny that this was a good policy, and would redound to the advantage of the people of British Columbia? With reference to the proposed Red Mountain railway, the proposition had been made by Mr. Corbin to construct a short line of some 20 miles, the sole purpose of which was to make the mines of British Columbia tributary to the enrichment of the town of Northport, in the neighboring state of Washington. In opposition to this scheme, the Heinze people proposed to construct a road and build a smelter, retaining the profits of the British Columbia mines to British Columbians, and building into flourishing cities the towns of Rossland and Trail. Was it not the duty of a British Columbia government to protect the property and profits of its own people, instead of allowing them to be made contributors to the prosperity of a neighboring land? Still another item of policy deserving of hearty commendation was with regard to the development of the Boundary Creek country, a work that had been undertaken successfully by the government although not without the opposition of Mr. Graham and his political friends, that gentleman himself, in 1896, actually voting against the construction of a railway from Penticton into the Boundary district. (Shame.) Was this a sensible thing for the representative of East Yale to do, well knowing, as he must, that the road in question would not only open a magnificent new mining district in the province, but at the same time make accessible to the farmers of the Okanagan valley a magnificent and profitable market for their products.

To come nearer home, the Attorney-General traced the history of the Shuswap & Okanagan, from the time of its inception by Mr. Lumby, and the unsuccessful effort of that gentleman, with Mr. Ritchet, Mr. F. S. Barnard, and himself to carry it to a successful consummation. The Shuswap & Okanagan had made a wonderful change in the district of which Vernon was now the metropolis—could any resident of Vernon question this? It had brought the wheat production of the district up so that the exportation had risen from 50 to 1,000 tons per annum to 8,000 or 10,000, and it had induced the erection and successful operation of at least three first-class flouring mills, which, he was glad to learn, were all operated at a profit, and one of which was amply demonstrating the practicability of co-operative principles. (Applause.) To further promote the prosperity of the valley, the government now proposed to give them direct connection with the Kootenay markets to the south, and he might tell the audience that the government had now made an arrangement by which the construction of the line from Robson to Penticton would proceed at once. (Applause.)

He might also tell them that work on the line from Penticton to Boundary Creek would commence within a week. (Cheers.) Before he left Victoria the contract had been let and the necessary guarantee deposit made for the building of the connecting line to the coast. (Cheers.)

And he had only a very few hours before had placed in his hands the following telegram to the Premier from the contractors, with regard to the plans of their working staff:

"Vancouver, June 21.

"The Hon. J. H. Turner, Vernon:

"Referring to your inquiry as to when construction work will commence on the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern railway, I would state, in reply, that the first engineering party, in charge of A. B. Ross, will leave Vancouver for Penticton to-morrow; the second engineering party, in charge of A. E. Hill, will take the field on Wednesday next, to locate the line west through the Hope mountains, preparatory to active construction. Construction outfit and plant will be on the ground at Penticton this week, to begin active and continuous construction of the line from Penticton to the Boundary Creek district.

"D. D. MANN."

The reading of this telegram was interrupted at the completion of every sentence by hearty cheering, and on the conclusion of the reading, it was fully five minutes before the enthusiasm of the meeting could be checked so that the honorable minister might proceed. He might tell the people of Vernon, he said, that the announcement just made was one of the most important that had ever been made with regard to the railway building projects for the opening up of British Columbia. Another telegram which he would read would conclude what he now had to say, and this was a message he had just received from the Deputy Attorney-General, this setting forth that Mr. Gore, the Deputy Commissioner of Lands and Works, had sent the plans for the new jail to Mr. Norris, and construction was to proceed immediately. (Renewed applause.) Hon. Mr. Eberts then closed with thanks to the meeting for the kind and cordial reception accorded him.

Mr. Charles E. Semlin, the leader of the opposition, and the last speaker of the evening, agreed with all that had been said as to the wisdom of the policy of opening up the country by means of railways and kindred public works, his argument—and the argument of the party that he had the honor to lead—being not against these works, but that bargains not the best for British Columbia had been made in the bringing in of the various railways—undue advantage having been given to promoters and monopolies. He dwelt briefly upon the connection of Hon. Messrs. Turner and Pooley with the British Klondike companies holding that such connections by ministers of the Crown were calculated to depreciate the credit of the country. As to the policy of the government on which they now asked for return to office, it was unquestionably very good if well administered. (Applause.) To be sure, it consisted almost entirely of the one plank—railway building—while the opposition had this, but other important planks as well, upon which they solicited the confidence of the electorate. He maintained that the government had not made the best deal possible in connection with the construction of the Nelson-Port Sheppard road, and that the administration was blameable for not having taken earlier action to co-operate with the Dominion in reclamation works at Revelstoke. As to Mr. Joseph Martin—"fighting Joe Martin"—who just now was such a thorn in the flesh of Premier Turner and his colleagues, it was not so very long since Mr. Turner had actually proffered him a seat in the cabinet—(Premier Turner: "No.")—had actually pleaded with him to accept a portfolio, and had been distressed because he would not do so. For Martin would be prime minister or nothing—he would be head of whatever government he identified himself with. It was only when Mr. Turner could not get him in his own government that he discovered what a very bad man Joe Martin was—for Mr. Turner was not quite prepared to surrender the leadership of the government to get Mr. Martin into it. (Laughter.)

Mr. F. S. Barnard—Mr. Semlin, I would like to ask you plainly, do you believe that to be true, or do you know it to be false as you say it?

Hon. Mr. Turner—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Eberts—He knows it to be untrue.

Mr. Semlin—I do not quite understand?

Mr. Barnard—I thought I made myself plain enough. I asked you if you would say you would believe your own statement that Joseph Martin was offered and refused a seat in the Turner cabinet? I would like a straight answer.

Hon. Mr. Turner—Of course he doesn't believe it, and he won't say so.

Nor did Mr. Semlin. Instead he passed hurriedly to the consideration of financial matters, leaving the question unanswered or otherwise disposed of. The distribution of appropriations to the special advantage of constituencies returning government supporters he regarded as a strong argument against rather than for the cause of the Turner party, for a government that would thus endeavor to influence votes was unworthy the confidence of the people.

The Premier—Hear, hear.

He objected to the system of redistribution that had this session been adopted, maintaining that the number of representatives should not have been increased, but the representation readjusted to be more in accord with the distribution of population and the methods of constitutional law. Then, giving consideration to the provincial debt and the recent loans, he held that the country's borrowing must cease soon, in order that national bankruptcy might be averted. As to the securing of a revision of the terms of union, he held this to be an impossibility, as the other provinces could not be expected to consent, and argued that because the government had made some mistakes in the course of their long administration of the affairs of the country, it would have been much better had they not been returned to power in 1890.

"For then," he said, "the country would have been saved the cost of that marble at the Capital—a building that does not develop the resources of the country, upon which my friend the Premier is so eloquent, and which cost the country over a million, while we were told the cost could not possibly exceed $300,000."

Hon. Mr. Turner (interrupting)—You are in error in saying the parliament buildings cost a million dollars. Ground and all included, they did not cost that sum.

The revision of the statutes was condemned by Mr. Semlin, because the work, according to his statement, had cost $51,000, while the original estimate was but $25,000. The railway policy was defined to be "the country pays the money, and the company gets the road," and the Cassiar Central bill was declared to be most unjust to the country, inasmuch as it enabled the railway company to monopolize all the auriferous creeks in the country to be traversed. He had been informed, he said, that the original receivers of this Cassiar Central charter had passed it on to a second party for a consideration of $750,000, and Mr. D. W. Higgins had asserted on the floor of the House that the same charter had been transferred from this second to a third party for a consideration of two millions.

Laughter and comments of incredulity greeted this, the two ministers joining heartily in the merriment.

"That is not true, either," said Mr. Turner; "I hope you will give me a few minutes when you get through to correct your misstatements of fact."

At all events, the leader of the opposition argued, Mr. Higgins had said so, and if it were so, the country should have got the benefit of the sale, and not these speculating promoters of a railway they could not build themselves. In conclusion, he said that if the electors of the East Yale district were satisfied with the business capacity demonstrated by the government during their tenure of office, he hoped that they would vote for the candidate representing the government cause, Mr. Price Ellison. If, on the other hand, they were not satisfied that the government, as agents of the people, had conducted the public business in the manner most conducive to the benefit and prosperity of the whole country, they should not let the fact that Mr. Ellison was personally a most estimable man and good citizen deter them from casting thier ballots for the standard-bearer of the opposition—Mr. Donald Graham.

On the termination of Mr. Semlin's address, despite the protest of Hon. Mr. Turner that he should be given an opportunity to correct the misstatements made, the chairman hastily left the platform, the meeting thus coming to an end.

A JEWELLER'S CASE.

Mr. R. F. Colwell, of Windsor, tells How Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Cured Him of Bright's Disease, After Many Other Remedies had Utterly Failed—Dodd's Kidney Pills Helped Him from the Start.

Windsor, June 24.—In no city in Canada has that celebrated medicine, Dodd's Kidney Pills, won a brighter record, than in Windsor. The number of persons cured of deadly Kidney diseases, by Dodd's Kidney Pills, in this city is surprisingly large, and increases daily.

One of the latest to testify to the magic power of Dodd's Kidney Pills is Jeweller R. F. Cowell, No. 9 Ouellette Street. He says: "I have endured, for two years, the greatest torture, from back-ache and pains in the loins. A puffiness appeared under my eyes, my limbs bloted, and my urine was of a dark, unatural color, and bad odor.

"I tried many remedies, but all failed to help me. When I ascertained that I had Bright's Disease, I became thoroughly alarmed. I was told of the efficacy of Dodd's Kidney Pills, in all Kidney diseases, and I began to use them.

"After the first few doses, I began to improve. The pains left me, my sleep became sound, puffiness and bloating vanished, my urine resumed its normal condition, and my health gradually became all I could wish it to be. I used only a few boxes of Dodd's Kidney Pills, but they cleaned my system thoroughly of that dread curse—Bright's Disease."

There is no case of Bright's Disease, Diabetes, Dropsy, Gout, Gravel, Stone in the Bladder, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Diseases of Women, or any other Kidney disease, that Dodd's Kidney Pills will not cure.

Dodd's Kidney Pills are sold by all druggists, at fifty cents a box, six boxes $2.50, or sent, on receipt of price, by The Dodds Medicine Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

In the great volcanic districts of Iceland there is a whole mountain composed of eruptive clays and pure white sulphur. A beautiful grotto penetrates the western slope to an unknown depth.

Animals are often able to bear very protracted fastings. In the Italian earthquakes of 1795 two hogs were buried in the ruins of a building. They were taken out alive 42 days later, but very lean and weak.

The Russian government has ordered that all sardine boxes be opened by the customs officers, because nihilistic tracts have often been sent into the country packed in fish tins.

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