

SEEKING REFUGE IN PROROGATION

Hon. Charles Wilson, K. C., Attorney-General, has been called away by urgent private business, and if the government has its way the present session of the Legislature will know him no more. The President of the Council has expressed the opinion, through his newspaper, that the work of the House will be finished this week. We fear the desires of ministerial hearts will not be gratified. Even if the Finance Minister were to deliver his annual statement this week, the estimates were rushed through and the many amendments to statutes Mr. Wilson has before the House were killed with heavy ill-will, we doubt whether His Honor the Lieut.-Governor could be persuaded that the Legislature had discharged all the business before it. It is true the expected has happened and that the government members of the Kalen Island investigation committee have practically announced that their report will be in accordance with the views of Hon. Charles Wilson, K. C., who said at a meeting of Mr. McBride's Conservatives in Vancouver on Saturday night that "they could probe the matter from the beginning to the end, they could search the government archives with a small tooth comb, and they would find one of the best bargains that a government ever made in the interests of the people—this was not a bonus to a railway company, but a deal in the public interests." But there are other sources of information than the archives that are under the control of that master manipulator in the public interest, Hon. R. F. Green. It is not to be expected that ministers will admit having made a deal that is in the interests of private speculators nor that they will furnish documentary evidence of the prostitution of their official positions to the purposes of their favored "promoters." But the evidence has not been confined to the government "archives" nor to the contradictory evidence of the Ministers. There is the testimony of that favorite of fortune, Mr. Anderson, which, coupled with official documents and statements, is sufficient to blast reputations more firmly established than the fair fame of certain members of the McBride government. Hon. Charles Wilson sneers at the petty speculations who hoped to profit by the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific by staking out lands in the neighborhood of Kalen Island. The government ruthlessly crushed the hopes of these common, insignificant grafters by refusing to recognize their stakes. It kept the agreement which was in the public interest secret from all but the favored few who were in the employ of the McBride government. Hon. Charles Wilson sneers at the petty speculations who hoped to profit by the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific by staking out lands in the neighborhood of Kalen Island. The government ruthlessly crushed the hopes of these common, insignificant grafters by refusing to recognize their stakes. It kept the agreement which was in the public interest secret from all but the favored few who were in the employ of the McBride government. Hon. Charles Wilson sneers at the petty speculations who hoped to profit by the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific by staking out lands in the neighborhood of Kalen Island. The government ruthlessly crushed the hopes of these common, insignificant grafters by refusing to recognize their stakes. It kept the agreement which was in the public interest secret from all but the favored few who were in the employ of the McBride government.

American from Montana into his councils and that but for the valued aid of Mr. Larsen the Grand Trunk Pacific might have refused to locate its terminus in British Columbia, building its stations and round houses in the neighboring territory of Alaska. There is a proposition worthy of the imagination of a poet of the first order, and we hope our friend the captain, whose knowledge of federal affairs is as limited as the territorial circumference of his island home, will not overlook it in his perfunctory denunciations of the traitorous crew which aims at nothing less than the dissolution of the Empire.

EXTRACTING SUNBEAMS.

"There is a sound of going!" The tide of public opinion is running strongly against the Liberal party. The evidence of it is to be found in the result of the polling in Malsonneuve, the constituency of the late Hon. Raymond Prefontaine. Malsonneuve is one of the strongest labor centres in Canada. A labor representative has been elected there in opposition to a Liberal. There is no denying the fact. But we cannot understand why Conservatives should seek to extract comfort from it. As in nearly all the constituencies of Quebec the feeling against the Conservative party is so strong in Malsonneuve that it was thought wise not to expose the weakness of the party by nominating a candidate at all. The fight was between a Labor candidate of pronounced Liberal views and a Liberal. In all his addresses Mr. Ver-ville expressed strong sympathy with the Liberal cause, and there is not the slightest reason to doubt that his votes in the House will record his opposition to Conservatism and his adherence to the principles of Liberalism. The case of the Conservative party must be very hopeless indeed if resort for consolation must be had to the result of the election in Malsonneuve. If the victories of the Conservative party are all to be moral triumphs, won negatively, it will be a long time ere the principles of Conservatism become a positive force in the affairs of the country.

PLAIN "BILL" TEMPLEMAN.

It is pleasing to observe an evident determination on the part of the Colonist to carry the political discussion up to a very high plane. Still we must be permitted to express our inability to perceive the importance of the issues raised this morning by our contemporary of fertile resource. There may have been a time when Mr. Templeman was known as plain "Bill" and rather prided himself upon his associations with plain people. It may even be that now the plain "Bill" has by process of evolution developed into "the Hon. William." The plain people who stood behind him in the old days when he was fighting for an unpopular cause are still with him when the circumstances are entirely different and that their staunch loyalty is fully appreciated.

But the issues of this campaign have nothing whatever to do with the petty details of private life. The public is not interested in the fact, if it be a fact, that the Minister of Inland Revenue was once known to his personal friends or his personal enemies as plain "Bill" Templeman. The public cannot be expected to exhibit feelings of malignant envy because the man who was once a plain working journalist has been chosen, as a result of his long championship of principles which he believed to be true principles, and which the great majority of the people of Canada have stamped with their approval, to sit as the representative of the West in the highest council of state. Our contemporary is mistaken if, it thinks the public is likely to be influenced by the contemptible spirit it displays. The spirit of the public is broader and more generous than it thinks. It will understand the significance of this statement on the evening of March 6.

A THEME FOR A PATRIOT.

Mr. McPhillips, who as the very dear personal and political friend of Hon. R. F. Green is conducting the campaign in opposition to the Minister of Inland Revenue, desires the fact to be clearly understood that Capt. Clive McPhillips-Wolley's name was not submitted to the convention that nominated Mr. Beckwith. The captain was urged to accept the nomination, but declined. However, the poet of Pler Island sympathizes with the aspirations of his friends in the McBride government and will appear with them on the stump in the course of the campaign. That fact is a guarantee of an interesting time during the present week. The captain will take up the case with characteristic vigor and handle the political issues with poetic license. The Colonist has already provided a theme by pointing out that the British preferential policy of the Laurier government, a policy the party with which Captain Wolley is allied has opposed with all its might ever since the date of its inception, obvious indicates that Canada under Liberal rule is "looking to Washington" and that a couple of decades of such government must carry us all over and deposit us snugly in the arms of Uncle Sam. We can understand how the rich red blood of the patriotic captain must rapidly rise in temperature as the mind it feeds dwells upon the tendencies of the traitorous crew who are in charge of our national affairs at the present time, and how scorching the words will be this evening as they fall from the lips of the poet-patriot. But let Captain Wolley not forget that his friend Mr. Green was forced to call an

this self-evident proposition in mind, why will the Colonist persist in saying that the Conservatives who have publicly signified their intention of voting against the candidate Hon. Robert Green has set up, and the hundreds of other Conservatives who have made up their minds to vote in like manner without saying anything about it, are men who "can be bought like sheep and handed over to the fold of the Liberals," men whose political principles are to be "bartered for portfolios." And if injury is done to the unity and harmony of the party, the responsibility rests with those "who can be bought like sheep and handed over to the fold of the Liberals," not with the Colonist, which professes to speak for true Conservatism as exemplified in the political works of Hon. R. F. Green, of Kalen Island. If the Colonist has the power to read men like Messrs. Ker, McQuade, Shotbolt, Dewdney, Hayward and others out of the party and to establish McBrideism as the true system which must leave the whole lump, Liberals will have no reason to complain. Such a consummation will make the path of politics smooth and easy going for them.

Not a newspaper in the province, with one exception, has had the courage to raise its voice in defence of the Kalen Island deal. The organs of the government, recognizing the hopelessness of the task of attempting to say a word in extenuation of one of the most scandalous transactions in the history of the province, have contented themselves with eliminating from their reports of the evidence such features as exposed in all its nakedness the connection of the Chief Commissioner with the company of speculators who undertook to procure the terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific on Kalen Island and the incomprehensible indifference of the other ministers to the interests of the province. On this subject the Kamloops Inland Sentinel says: "The Kalen Island inquiry is beginning to bear fruit. Anderson admits having received \$10,000 and an interest in some land from Larsen, and by and by the whole story may be dragged out of the unwilling witnesses. J. A. Macdonald is handling the examination of these gentlemen with skill and a persistence that is beginning to tell. A breach has been made in the hitherto impenetrable armor of reserve on the part of the witnesses. The breach will be forced still wider open and if the downfall of the McBride government does not follow it will be a marvel. It is a pretty shady piece of business, but all the shadiness has not yet been told."

Vancouver World: Is there a crisis at the capital? Have a number of the supporters of the Socialist-Conservative government signed a round robin addressed to the Premier, asking him to dismiss Chief Commissioner Green? The round robins, if any there are, need to be reminded that the premier has no power to dismiss. He may ask for the resignation of a minister, but the Lieutenant-Governor alone has the power to send him about his business. May we venture to make a suggestion, which is this: That the Lieutenant-Governor be requested to dismiss all his advisers and call upon some one in whom he feels that he can repose confidence to form a new cabinet, who will appeal to the country and thus give the people of British Columbia an opportunity to express their opinions on such matters as Kalen Island, the Midway and Vernon and the Klondike scandals, and upon the unholy alliance with the Socialists by a government that was returned to administer public affairs on strict party lines.

The political conditions to-day are very different from the political conditions in the fall of the year 1895, so different that it would be waste of time to explain wherein they differ. And in any case we are not complaining because of the action of the Conservative party in bringing out a candidate in opposition to Mr. Templeman. Private individuals upon whose judgment we place considerable importance have expressed adverse opinions. It will hardly be denied that they have a right to express their opinions nor that it is perfectly legitimate for the Times to give the opinions publicity. Our own opinion is that a contest at this time will be of service to the Minister of Inland Revenue personally and politically, that it will tend to the advantage of the Dominion, and that, perhaps most important of all, the result will be portentous of the political change which is imminent in this province. The provincial ministers realize this, and hence the desperation of their determination to force a fight.

We do not know what the Minister of Inland Revenue thinks about it, but we venture to say it will make no difference whether the voter looks upon him as plain "Bill" Templeman or as "Hon. William" Templeman, so long as he marks his ballot right.

The Times spoke advisedly when it described the elements in this city who are obeying the behests of Hon. R. F. Green as the "rump of Conservatism." Let anyone who has any doubts about it consult a dictionary as to the meaning of the word and the political circumstances under which it has been applied and he will agree with us.

THE JEWEL ROBBERY.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 24.—Barrington, suspected of being implicated in the diamond robbery with Hayward, was arrested last night at Blaine after having mailed a package of diamonds to Portland. It is probable that all the diamonds stolen from McMillan's will now be recovered.

HIS RESIGNATION MAY BE ASKED FOR

HON. R. F. GREEN ON DANGEROUS GROUND

Conservatives Would Welcome His Dismissal—Colonial and Western Bill Will Give Trouble.

The results of the Kalen Island inquiry have had the effect of so discrediting the chief commissioner, Hon. R. F. Green, in the eyes of his own party, that it is regarded as extremely questionable if that minister will be able to continue in office. Many Conservative members in view of the evidence so far given have declared themselves in favor of the calling for his resignation. A report to the effect that a round robin was being signed by Conservative members asking for his resignation does not seem to have been correct.

Such a pronounced step has not been taken, but members on his side of the House are individually favoring a dismissal in the hope of allowing the government as such to escape any ignominy connected with the transaction. Some members of the government even are inclined to deal leniently with the chief commissioner who is blamed for all the trouble the recommendation in connection with the transaction having originated with him.

The chief commissioner is acknowledged by the rank and file of the Conservative following in the House to have been anything but popular and was not regarded as a strength to the government.

The Kalen Island inquiry has, these members say, revealed him as perfectly unfitted for office and the Premier should call for his resignation. Some of the Conservative members would like to see his resignation asked for at once even before the inquiry continues further. Others, however, advise waiting until the investigation is closed. J. F. Garden, chairman of the committee of inquiry, has received a message from Peter Larsen, who is in which the latter states that he has been under the doctor's care for four months and does not know when he could come and give evidence on the Kalen Island question. It is improbable, therefore, that he will come.

In connection with his sickness the following press dispatch from Helena explains his condition:

"Upon a contract calling for the payment of \$10,000 a day for the time he left Chicago, he returned, Dr. Seppy, a professor of the practice of medicine at Rush College, Chicago, has come to Helena, to make a diagnosis of the illness of Peter Larsen of this city, who is suffering from cirrhosis of the liver."

Recently Mr. Larsen went east for an operation, which, however, was not performed. Dr. Seppy's diagnosis is understood to have been the same as that of the hospital doctors in Rochester, Minn., that the case is hopeless, but not necessarily immediately fatal. No message has been received from Frank W. Morse, vice-president and general manager of the G. T. Pac., on the subject. It is presumed that he must be absent from Montreal or a reply would have been forthcoming before this.

The present week is likely to see the Columbia and Western transitioned into an important part in the legislative debates. A bill has been promised to the C. P. R. by the government to ratify the order-in-council conveying lands which have not been surveyed after the time expired under which they could be claimed.

J. S. Dennis, land commissioner of the C. P. R., who is understood to have charge of this work on behalf of the company, is believed to be pressing for the bill being brought down. On the other hand the government is fearful to attempt the introduction of the measure in the House in its present temper. Opposition, it is recognized, will come from the Conservative side as well as from the Liberal ranks.

The government's attitude towards the C. P. R. on this point is so entirely different to its policy respecting the Midway and Vernon and the Pacific Northern and Omineca that very strong opposition has been raised to the bill, which is intended to be introduced. The debate on this measure will likely be the most bitter of the session.

PROTEST AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY BILL

Petition Will be Presented Asking For Its Disallowance—Statement by Chancellor Burwash.

Toronto, Feb. 24.—Rev. Dr. Carmichael, general superintendent of the Methodist church; Rev. Dr. Potts, general secretary of education, and Rev. Dr. Burwash, chancellor of Victoria college, will appeal to the lieutenant-governor of British Columbia to withhold assent to the bill recently passed granting extensive privileges to McGill University in that province.

The appeal will assume the form of a petition showing that the Methodist church has spent over \$100,000 in supporting Columbia College at New Westminster during the past 14 years, and that there are now 155 students in the college, 13 of whom are undergraduates of the University of Toronto.

The petitioners point out that the college was established on the distinct understanding with the British Columbia government that a provincial university would be established with which the Methodist could affiliate. They will press upon the lieutenant-governor the necessity of inaugurating a provincial university at the earliest possible date, and warning any policy

David Spencer Ltd.

WESTERN CANADA'S BIG STORE

SPRING OPENING

In Boot and Shoe Department To-Day



The Edwin C. Burt Shoe for Women

possesses every feature which has made it standard for forty years, but the price is lower; modern methods have brought that down.

EXCLUSIVE AGENCY
D. Spencer
LIMITED.

Women's White Duck Blucher, Gibson light turned sole, high heel. Women's Pat. Colt Blucher Lace Shoe, "pike" toe, welt sole. Women's Champagne Colored Suede, Louis X. heel, Chisty tie, ultra swell thing. Women's Pat. Kid, lavender trimmed, Blucher cut, white enameled eyelets, turn sole, military heel, low shoe. Women's Pat. Kid Lace Boot, "Dart Last," Blucher cut, Cuban heel, welt sole; a new narrow toe. Women's Pat. Colt Blucher Blucher Low Shoe, welted sole, Cuban heel. Women's Kid Lace Boot, hand turn sole, pat. tip. Women's Choc. Vici Kid Turn Sole Lace Boot, Cuban heel. Women's White Kid Turn Button Boots, pat. leather vamp, welted sole, Cuban heel, opera toe. Women's Pat. Colt Pump Slippers, welt sole, opera toe; for street wear, Cuban heel. Women's Milton Cloth Top Button Boots, kangaroo vamp, military heel, pike toe.



Women's Choc. Vici Kid, Blucher front, a nobby narrow toe, welt sole, military heel, Gibson tie. Women's Pat. Colt Welt Lace Boot, Blucher cut, pike toe, military heel. Women's Kid Blucher Lace Boot, elk heel, welt sole; a splendid walking boot. Women's Choc. Russian leather, Blucher cut, lace boot, extension sole, welted, military heel.

Shoes for Men

Preston B. Keith Shoe Co., Brockton, Mass. Frank W. Slater, Studer Shoe, J. D. King & Co., Limited, Toronto. Florsheim & Co., Chicago, U.S.A. Keith's Konqueror has no equal. Always a large stock to choose from in styles and widths. Opening 20 cases Misses' and Children's goods. See display in Government street windows.

Special Display of Brenton's Axminster Carpets Monday

Exceptional values in Brussels Carpets at \$1.00 and \$1.25 yd

Brussels Carpets To-Day 75c Yard

In the Basement Crockery	Brass Goods	Confectionery
97-piece Dinner Sets, blue with design. Special, \$6.90. 97-piece Dinner Sets, pink with spray. Special, \$5.50. 40-piece Tea Sets, assorted patterns. Special, \$12.75. 21-piece Tea Sets, crown derby pattern. Regular \$7.50. Special \$4.10. 10-piece Toilet Sets. A few yet to sell at \$3.75; worth \$7.50. Samples of fine English Crockery, suitable for cake plates or wall plaques, another lot to sell. Special at 35c; values 50c. to \$1.00. Japanese Plates, sizes 6 inches. Special, 10c. Japanese Plates, sizes 7 inches. Special, 25c. Glass, 4-piece Tea Sets. Special, 75c. set. Water Tumblers of Glass, fine polish. Today 5c each. Glass Jelly Bowls. Special, 15c. each. Steel Bread Knives. Special, 5c. each. Punch Bowls. Special, \$1.75.	Wrought Iron Fender with copper trimmings, size 48 inches. Regular, \$18.75. Special, \$12.50. Brass Fenders, complete. Regular, \$22.50. Special, \$16.50. Brass Coal Scuttles. Regular \$15. Special, \$9.75. Copper Coal Scuttles, plain finish. Regular \$7.50. Special, \$6.25. Brass Fire Irons, 3 piece-sets. Regular \$4.75. Special, \$3.65. Brass Fire Irons. Regular \$5.75. Special, \$4.75. Brass Music Rack in plain finish. Regular \$3.75. Special, \$6.25. Brass Tea Kettles with spirit. Regular \$6.75. Special, \$4.75. Brass Tea Kettles with spirit. Regular \$11.75. Special, \$7.75.	(FRESH DAILY.) For Tuesday's selling: Spencer Creams, 50c. lb.: Maple. Brazil. Date. Walnut. Cherry. Black Currant. Custard. Dale. Fig. Almond Chocolate Chips, 50c. lb. Walnut Chocolate Chips, 50c. lb. Spencer's Butter, Cups, Fruit Filled, 20c. lb. Flavors: Strawberry. Violet. Raspberry. Banana. Wintergreen. Lemon. Pineapple. Peach. Roulette's Pastilles. Flavors: Black Currant and Honey. Bijou. Vanilla. Apricot. Menthol. Red Currant. Chocolate. Cough. Licorice. Raspberry. Spencer's Butter Scotch, 10c. a tin.

28 New Spring Suits for Men

Values \$15.00 and \$17.50. Tuesday, \$12.50.
Two Styles: Double and Single Breasted. Styles slightly changed from last season.

which might delay the establishing of such a university.

"We feel that if the bill becomes law it will delay indefinitely the inauguration of provincial university," said Chancellor Burwash. "If the petition has not the desired effect the general conference next September will consider what can be done to secure justice."

It is learned that the conference will likely appeal to the Dominion government to disallow the bill if it is passed by the lieutenant-governor.

STRIKE INEVITABLE.

No Hope of Averting Trouble in the Southwestern Coal Fields.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 24.—The Southwestern Coal Operators' Association, which comprises the fields of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Indian Territories, Arkansas and Texas, met her to-day to hear the report of the scale committee that went to Indianapolis to confer with the United Mine Workers and to discuss the situation. Nearly 100 operators were present.

Prior to the conference W. C. Perry, president of the association, said: "I am satisfied, and so are all coal operators, that there will be a strike among the miners. It is inevitable. In the event of a strike 20,000 miners will be out in Missouri and Kansas and Texas and the Territories."

40 Years Experience

in making embroidery and spool silks, is in every thread of

Belding's Spool Silks

The favorites everywhere with tailors and dressmakers, as well as with those who sew at home.

Sold by all dealers.

The Arion club concert, advertised to take place on Monday evening next, in Institute Hall, has been postponed until the following evening, in consequence of a telegram received from Miss Lewys, of Seattle, stating that she could not appear on the first-named date. Miss Lewys is the contralto who has been engaged by the club to

Local

—Martin Johns, the Royal Jubilee, and the remains of the late home by W.

—Michael O'Brien, six months' imprisonment on Saturday last, for supplying liquor to Indians, known as O'Brien, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment before.

—The popular man's Auxiliary will take place at the city hall, during committee date.

—The Young P. John's church are "cake" social for the entertainment of the old English gamblers. The entertainment begins at 8 o'clock schoolroom.

—A Japanese concert Wednesday, the auspices of the Knox Presbyterian. Participating will appear costumes, which are engaged to render able selections. Local vocalists will

—The remains of the late Royal Jubilee, Wednesday, have been removed to the parlors of W. J. H. removal of the

—At the monthly shipwrecks and of Victoria and of the officers were: W. D. Kelly, vice-president; secretary; and

—A committee of the Anti-Tuberculosis upon the government noon and made a special assistance to the committee for the the. The committee by Premier McBride, Hon. F. C. P. Fulton, and definite answer at

—The funeral of place Friday afternoon's undertaking conducted by the and the pallbearers son Clarke, J. T. and J. W. Bolden. Contributions received of the stock of the graph staff of the ver, on both of the eldest son of the at an operator. Connected with the

—The first annual horses, cattle, sheep the auspices of the Stock Breeders' held at Queen's Hotel, on March 21st. Several farmers decided to hold the City. A great deal taken in the sale.

—There was a members at the ladies' auxiliary of the principal item of sale of work to be done of R. L. Dr. 11th. The various progress and with a glass response the sale. When the proceeds are to be new building fund doubtless be manifest

—The members of of Foresters of this joint session at the Court Northern L. occasion of a Court Victoria and Courts Vancouver to P. D. C. R. Bro. beautiful souvenir his services to the substituted the first. Addresses will be members of the of time will be held at ber of the order in to be present.

—The first of the monthly socials of the Y.M.C.A. was and proved fully all joined in the which the proceeding which an informal music was gone thainfully, to which and Messrs. Gilbert, ger contributed. A short speech, in the sale of work to of April, to which contribute something were served during

—The International Company have been at Spokane, at effort, of Victoria agent, and H. N. C. Alberta, vice-president. The annual that the profits for quarter to \$227.50. No dividend was paid and the above sum profit and loss accounts amounts to \$201.52 which are situated forty miles from Portment to 175 men, and 1,000 tons per day.

—The Victoria Wattle society held a masquerade ball in day night, which proceeds than ever. The couple present and up until 3 o'clock, at that time showing joring a good time. Prizes were awarded dressed lady, silk and hard, best dressed ing case, Mr. Taylor