

THE HERALD

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The Government and the People

The conduct of the Farquharson Administration, just previous to and during the late session of the Provincial Legislature, must go a long way to convince every honest elector that responsible government as administered by our local rulers, has become a by-word and a delusion. The basic principle of responsible government is that the people rule through their representatives, and whenever a government find they have forfeited the confidence of the electors and are not supported by a clear majority of the people's representatives, it is their duty to resign or to afford the electors an opportunity of pronouncing upon their actions. Now, we submit that the Farquharson Government possessed sufficient evidence before the meeting of the Legislature that they were discredited in the Province, and no longer had the people's mandate to carry on the public business and administer the Provincial finances. The people had pronounced against them in the bye-elections, and Mr. Wise furnished evidence of his intention to vote against the Government. In view of these facts they were clearly in a minority and should have asked the people for a decision before presuming to conduct the public business any longer. This the Government did not do; on the contrary they set public opinion at naught and outraged public decency in their efforts to cling to power. Our readers are familiar with the rude, disgraceful conduct of the Government and Government officials in ejecting Mr. Wise from the House. Mr. Wise claims he resigned conditionally, and the conditions not having been complied with he had a right to claim his seat. Premier Farquharson says the resignation was unconditional. If he resigned unconditionally the Government have violated the law in their failure to issue a writ and bring on an election. Consequently whichever horn of the dilemma the Government accept they are proved guilty in this matter. Then we have in the Pinesau matter evidence of the most scandalous political corruption. We have the affidavits of respectable and reputable men that Pinesau, elected to oppose the Government, was approached by friends of the Government and offered a consideration, in the first place to neutralize his opposition and secondly for his active support. According to one affidavit \$2,000 is the price for which Pinesau agreed to support the Government during the session. How much more he may have got is hard to say. Surely this furnishes very strong circumstantial evidence that the Government was held together during the session despite the will of the people, and by the purchased support of a representative elected to oppose them. It would certainly be difficult to unearth a case presenting more glaring evidence of reeking political corruption. Pinesau stands before the world in a sorry plight. It is quite apparent that for a consideration he deceived his political friends, betrayed the trust reposed in him by his supporters, prostituted the professed principles of a lifetime and became the pliant tool of his erstwhile political enemies. Pinesau has bartered his political honor and brought disgrace upon his name and his family for a mess of pottage. But what is to be said of those who, for their own selfish ends, brought about his political degradation? By the vote of this man, Pinesau, the Government were able to carry on the business of the session; by the vote of Pinesau they passed their debenture act, increasing the liabilities of the Province at one stroke, to the extent of almost fifty thousand dollars; by the vote of Pinesau the Government were able to snap their fingers at the people and to continue usurping the prerogatives of government in opposition to the expressed declaration of the electorate. Do the Government feel proud of their position; is it an honorable one; is it a position that a Government desirous of obeying the people's mandates would hold for twenty-four hours? We throw not, and most assuredly opportunity, against this flagrant prostitution of the principles of responsible Government.

In view of the facts above enumerated it might have been expected that the Legislative session would be characterized by disgraceful scenes. The Government were not in accord with the people; hence their enactments were forced against public opinion. It is not to be wondered at then that their legislation did not amount to much. Of the eighteen acts passed about half were of a private nature, mere acts of incorporation. The others were principally acts to increase the expenditure and the taxation of the people. Notwithstanding that the Province was already about \$600,000 in debt, and that the deficit on last year's transactions was upwards of \$36,000 the Government had the temerity to introduce and force through the House a debenture act involving an addition to the debt of nearly fifty thousand dollars. Other acts were passed increasing the rates of taxation to be levied on different industries. In addition

The Situation in China.

This is the situation in China as it appears to the Shanghai correspondent of the London Daily Express, dated last Friday: "It is really a state of veiled war. The British and the foreign legations in Peking are virtually prisoners, and the Chinese troops are only restrained from attacking them by fear of the legation guards. Meanwhile the ministers are altogether unable to communicate with the officers commanding the relief columns, which is making an enforced and isolated halt between the Peking and Tientsin. The walls of the city are heavily defended with modern guns. General Yang, lately, under orders from the Empress Dowager, says that no more foreign troops shall enter the sacred city. On Monday the ministers sent a despatch to the Legation Li Yuen-shan that the gates be opened, declaring that otherwise the foreign troops would enter forcibly. To this no reply was given. A second was unanswered, or had not been answered when the latest news left Peking. Sir Claude MacDonald's latest message says the legations are capable of sustaining an effective defence, unless attacked in force."

Russia, this correspondent asserts, notwithstanding assurances to the contrary, sides with China. The Chinese troops are already reported to be in the environs of Peking, and the attitude of the Chinese troops is increasingly menacing. "The streets of Peking," continues the correspondent of the Daily Express, "are said to be teeming with anti-foreign mobs, clamoring for the destruction of the legations and the death of the foreign ministers. Even were the Tientsin Li Yuen-shan disposed to restrain the violence, the crisis will arise when the relief column comes in sight of Peking. It is still felt here that the Chinese are ill-equipped to battle with the hordes of Chinese troops massed outside the gates, which now include the imperial troops from Shan-Hai-Kwan."

A disquieting element in the situation is the fact that although the telegraph line from Peking, via Khabarovsk (eastern Siberia) is working again, the transmission of English messages is rightly refused. The international line appears to be still at Langfang, engaged in slowly repairing the railway, which, according to the Daily Mail, dated June 14, cannot be effected for weeks. The force is short of provisions. The only means of transport, it must stick to the railroad. The report that the mixed forces will seize the Tientsin telegraph office, and the foreign commanders expect no aid from the Chinese government in repressing the disorders and are determined to take secure a base from which to operate. "The British government is considering whether a substantial force should be sent to China from South Africa. It is thought unofficially that Lord Roberts could spare a brigade or two, and necessary transport are now in South African waters. The commander of the expedition is probably Gen. Sir William Nicholson."

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, in a despatch dated 16th, says: "The news from Peking, dated June 15th, says that the Boers were then killing hundreds of native Christians and the servants of foreigners. The correspondent, in a despatch dated Sunday, says: 'A Chinese report states that Admiral Seymour is fighting with the Chinese regulars and that the foreign forces have already seized the Tientsin telegraph office. The Russian and the 7000 Russians with twelve machine guns and twelve field guns, were marching from Tien Tsin to Peking.'"

LATEST. The correspondent of the London Daily Express at Shanghai in a later despatch gives details of fighting at Taku. He says: "The ships of the allied fleet consisted of the York, the German, the Algerian, British, Altis, German, Onago, Japanese; and the Mandashur, Russian. Early on Sunday morning the forts opened fire and the Algerian and Altis were badly damaged, being struck by shells thirteen or fourteen times. The return fire of the fleet immediately and the forts were blown to pieces, the Chinese being afterwards driven back at the point of the bay. The main body of the attacking force consisted of Russians, 10,000 having been landed at Taku. The Russian gun-boat Mandashur is reported to have been blown up, seven blue-jackets being killed and many wounded. Altogether the Russians appear to have lost 6 killed and 45 wounded, whereas the total casualties of other powers amounted only to 8 killed and 12 wounded. No casualties are reported to have occurred among the American contingent. The Express correspondent says it is felt certain that the real explanation of the failure of Seymour's expedition was the divided counsel among his military forces, the American troops honestly cooperating with the British Admiral."

A London despatch dated yesterday says: Lord Salisbury was questioned in the House of Lords on the Chinese situation, and said he regretted he was unable to enlighten the House regarding the state of affairs in China. Admiral Seymour had returned to Tien Tsin, but the Government did not know exactly why nor what his intentions were. The failure of the international force to reach Peking has greatly intensified the anxiety here as to fate of the Europeans huddled together in the Legations at the Chinese capital. It is felt also that the check to Admiral Seymour's forces, necessitating their return to Tien Tsin will result in a serious blow to the ranks of the Boers and make their suppression still more difficult.

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The correspondent of the London Times with Lord Roberts telegraphing, on Monday says: "It is probable that negotiations will soon take place for the cessation of hostilities. Pretoria is settling down to militia jurisdiction which has been framed as far as possible on existing model, a considerable number of Boer civil officials being incorporated. 'Sad accounts come from Lorenzo Marques of the wretched plight of British prisoners.'"

Mr. R. E. Tomes, of Messrs. Bell & Johnston, Summerfield, left on Thursday by the barkentine Camo for a visit to the old country. He will also take in the Paris exhibition.—Summerside Pioneer.

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Republican Platform.

PHILADELPHIA, June 17.—For the first time since the republican leaders began to assemble in Philadelphia there has today been some earnest work upon the platform, and a draft has been completed which it is believed will receive the approval of the convention. This document was prepared in part before coming to Philadelphia by Post Master General Smith, and it is understood it was submitted to the president for his inspection and approval before Mr. Smith left Washington. Mr. Smith was in consultation during the greater part of the afternoon with Senator Foraker, who, it is understood, will be chairman of the committee on resolutions. The senator has himself given attention to the proposition to the declaration of principles, and he added considerable to Mr. Smith's draft. This instrument as so far prepared is of considerable length, but very clear and emphatic in its announcements. It begins by calling attention to the promises that were made in the St. Louis convention of 1896, and after enumerating the failures of the present administration in almost every instance, as is shown by the statistics which the last congress added to the laws that under his special attention is called to the fact that the platform of 1896 promised that the country should be put upon the gold standard and that this pledge has been faithfully maintained. There is a clear and distinct declaration for the gold standard, and the president's course on the Boer-British entanglement is also endorsed, and attention is called to the fact that under his guidance the United States has been the only nation to offer the intervention between the warring nations. The resolutions also contain the usual declaration for a protective tariff. 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