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# The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVIII. NO. 115

VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1907.

FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

## LIBERALS IMPRESS WOMEN INTO FIGHT

Novel Methods are Introduced in Ross-  
land by Supporters of J. A. Mac-  
donald Who Realize That  
Their Battle is Lost

Rossland, B. C., Jan. 30.—(Special)—J. A. Macdonald, the opposition leader, will go down to defeat in his home town on Saturday. Lorne A. Campbell, the Conservative candidate, will be the next member. The followers of Macdonald now realize, when too late, that their campaign was bungled from the start. Free distribution of liquor and cigars and even money has been so glaring and fragrant that the best element in the community has been thoroughly disgusted. To such desperate straits have the Liberals been reduced that, in the forlorn hope of retrieving the day, women friends have been appealed to for aid. This morning the city was treated to the novel spectacle of ladies canvassing from house to house for votes for the opposition leader. The chief workers are Mrs. Macdonald, wife of the opposition leader; Mrs. Smith Curtis and Mrs. E. S. H. Winn. The latter is the wife of Mr. Macdonald's law partner, and many were the amusing incidents that occurred. Scores of voters who, while on friendly personal terms, are opposed to Macdonald politically, "ducked" when the lady canvassers came within hailing distance. From all parts of the city come reports of strong men who fled in terror lest they would have to listen to the persuasive appeals of the feminine enthusiasts, and who did not have the hardihood to admit that the Liberal cause was hopeless. This campaign will go down in history as the warmest ever conducted in Rossland.

Campbell will have no walk-over, as the Socialists will poll a large vote. He has put up a good clean, manly fight from the outset. His record as a large employer of labor commends him to organized labor, while his strength will be augmented by scores of lukewarm Socialist sympathizers, who, realizing that Berry cannot be elected, want to ensure victory for Campbell. The impression is general among local labor men that Macdonald is no friend of theirs, and the spectre of cheap Chinese labor, the invasion of British Columbia by Oriental hordes, the abolition of the Chinese poll-tax as urged by the Montreal Board of Trade and instigated by the Grand Trunk Pacific, has created an alarm in labor circles. They figure out that if the Grand Trunk Pacific is supplying the campaign funds the Liberals in power at Victoria would offer but a passive resistance to any modification of the Chinese poll-tax. This factor in the campaign has driven the last nail in Macdonald's political coffin, as it will to his candidates in other ridings where the labor element has a large voting string.

Sandon, B. C., Jan. 30.—Of all the political experiences J. A. Macdonald, leader of the opposition, has ever had, the one at New Denver last night is likely to be remembered by him as the most disappointing. He spoke to an orderly Liberal meeting, and after the close of his address the gathering arose en masse and cheered for William Hunter, the Conservative candidate, and Hon. Richard McBride. The result of that meeting is all the talk of the country round about today, the demonstration being practical proof that the Liberals are going almost solid with the Conservatives for Hunter. A. B. Dockstader, Macdonald's candidate, is still in the field, but is no longer taken seriously. It is a sure win for the Conservatives in this riding.

### CURTIS LOSES NERVE

Hedley, B. C., Jan. 30.—L. W. Shatford's touz through the Similkameen valley is proving one continuous triumph. The Hedley meeting on Saturday night, that at Princeton on Monday and Keremeos on Tuesday, were all of them winners, and showed the feeling of the electors to be overwhelmingly with Shatford and the government. A gratifying feature for Shatford's supporters is the splendid platform talent he is developing. He deals exhaustively with the public issues and ignores entirely the low personal attacks of his opponents. The verdict of the people is that he can talk more common sense and business in half an hour than Curtis can in half a day.

Dr. Rowe, who accompanies him, is invincible, and Curtis has discreetly kept out of the way to avoid meeting him, although Curtis in the early part of the campaign was loud in his boasting of a desire on his part to meet anybody and everybody. Shatford's election is now assured. It is only a question of how large his majority will be.

### STRONGER FOR MANSON

Nanaimo, Jan. 30.—The meeting at Wellington tonight in the interests of Hon. William Manson was stormy, but that Conservative stock has gone up since last week, when Mr. Manson made such a strong impression at his rally there, was conclusively shown by the reception he was given tonight. The speakers were Manson, W. E. Burns of Vancouver, and Cartwright. Mr. Whitley was chairman.

### LIBERAL AUDACITY.

"All I can say further is that I considered the request of the Liberal delegation that I should support Liberal partizanship and thus forsake the labor principles was almost an insult. I am in favor of honest government and would not vote against the present administration merely to please the opposition."—From statement by Dr. Ernest Hall, Labor Candidate in Victoria.



THE SOURCE OF CAMPAIGN SCANDALS

## OUTSIDE INVESTORS AWAIT THE RESULT

Ex-Mayor of Winnipeg Who is Heavily  
Interested in Victoria and Vicinity  
Says That the Government  
Should be Sustained

"A change of government at the present time would, I think, be detrimental to the interests of the province." So remarked John Arbuthnot yesterday. Mr. Arbuthnot was formerly mayor of Winnipeg and is now a resident of Victoria. He is one of those who have been attracted to the coast because of the great industrial opportunities. Since making this city his home he has invested in real estate and local ventures heavily, and therefore is qualified to act, as it were, as a spokesman for outside investors. He says that there is no doubt that many capitalists, living in the prairie provinces and elsewhere, are watching the present provincial political campaign with interest, and he had no hesitation in stating that the outcome would influence, to a material extent, the investment in property and industries of British Columbia, from such sources.

Personally Mr. Arbuthnot is independent in his political views. He said he was not a party man, so that he was in a position to view the situation in British Columbia from an unbiased standpoint. From what he had been able to see, he thought there could be no doubt that the administrative policy Premier McBride and his colleagues had adopted was both wise and progressive. The country had been ably guided from a state of financial discredit to general prosperity. Outsiders were coming from all points in large numbers, settling and becoming interested in the development of the natural resources of the province. It could not be gainsaid that many capitalists were awaiting the result of the election before deciding whether to place their money in various propositions having for their object the exploitation of industries located west of the Rocky Mountains. For these reasons he would not like to see conditions changed.

### POINT TO BE CONSIDERED

Stable Government as Against Trivial Criticism  
Says Col. Prior

Col. E. G. Prior stated emphatically that the duty of the electors at the forthcoming election was to return the government headed by Premier McBride. In expressing such an opinion he wished it understood that he was looking at the situation from the viewpoint of a businessman, not from that of an adherent of the Liberal-Conservative party. The administration, during the three years it had had control of the reins of power, had done exceptionally well. Its record was creditable in every respect. He went on to recount what had been accomplished during its regime, mentioning the admirable manner in which the Finance Minister had pulled the province from the abyss of bankruptcy to an unprecedented prosperity. When entering upon his duties there had been a deficit—now there was a surplus. Besides, the resources of the country had been developed to a greater extent than ever before; the mineral, timber, agricultural and kindred industries had advanced by leaps and bounds, until British Columbia had attained the gratifying position of being recognized by the outside financial world as a country to be given consideration. It was this point, he thought, which would influence the men of commerce in casting their ballots on the 2nd of February. He had no doubt that all who compared the conditions of three years ago with those now prevailing, and thought of the possibility of disastrous changes, were the Liberals elected, would give Premier McBride their undivided support. In his opinion the issue was not the trivial criticisms or the ridiculous scandals which had been advanced by the opposition, but "stable government." The return of Premier McBride and his colleagues would mean the continuance of the present satisfactory conditions; while the election of J. A. Macdonald, K. C., and his supporters would mean the introduction of another period of chaos and unrest.

### STABILITY OF LAW

R. T. Elliott's Reasons for Supporting the Present Government

One of the strongest supporters of the present government is R. T. Elliott, formerly a member of the local Liberal Association. He is most outspoken in expressing the opinion that it would be a mistake to change the administration in the forthcoming elections. Like those already quoted, Mr. Elliott thinks that Premier McBride and those associated with him have shown their ability to handle the affairs of British Columbia in a capable manner. He contends that they had given the province stability of law, and that as a result capital was investing more heavily than heretofore. There was no doubt in his mind that the return of the Liberals would give the country a set-back the seriousness of which could scarcely be overestimated.

### HERE IS AUTHORITY.

"There is nothing in the statements made by Liberals to the effect that the Finance Minister of the Province could have arranged better terms than he did when the million dollar loan was secured in England three years ago," said a local bank manager yesterday. And this, the Colonist is assured, is the belief of every bank manager in the city to-day who is in any position to give any opinion on the question.