

Premier Prior Dismissed. R. McBride His Successor.

(From Monday's Daily.)
Col. Prior has been dismissed by Governor Joly.
About 10 o'clock this morning a letter from His Honor was received by the First Minister acquainting him with that fact.

The immediate cause of the Governor's action was the scandal in connection with the Chimney Creek contract.

His Honor in his letter to the Premier states so explicitly. He says that the Premier's conception of the Independence of Parliament Act is such that he can no longer give him his confidence.

The rumor was afloat this morning that the Premier had voluntarily resigned. This is quite incorrect. He was asked if this was the case, and he immediately set all doubt at rest on that point.

"No, I have not," he replied, "I did not get the chance."

"While His Honor was satisfied," he added, "that I had not done anything intentionally wrong in this Chimney Creek contract matter, he considered that I had gone outside the Independence of Parliament Act."

The ex-Premier receives the Governor's action in the same spirit in which a day or two ago Mr. Wells accepted a similarly drastic step on the part of the Premier, namely, philosophically.

He has no word of complaint to offer. In fact he had the same cheerful smile this morning when interviewed by the Times as when he first made his bow to the Speaker after the celebrated Victoria bye-election. He is quite willing now to admit that the course he pursued in connection with the notorious contract was, as he puts it, an "impolitical one."

When this matter came up in the House, he said, "I stated that I would abide by the finding of the committee. If I had done anything wrong I was prepared to accept the result. I had not the least intention of doing anything wrong in the matter, but I see it was im-

political, and my act was open to another construction being put upon it."
Neither had the Colonel any word of bitterness for those who have pressed for the investigation which has caused his downfall. He regards their action as perfectly legitimate and recognizes that he should not have thrown himself open to suspicion.

The Premier's political troubles have multiplied apace for the last two months. He recounted some of them this morning.

At five minutes to two he came down from His Honor's office and announced that he had seen the Governor and that he had been sworn in as First Minister.

A consultation followed with the Speaker when the new minister asked that an extension of time for fifteen minutes be given him beyond 2 o'clock, to enable him to consult with his supporters and to make arrangements for an announcement in the legislature.

This is necessitated by the fact that because of his being sworn in Mr. McBride cannot take his seat this afternoon nor until he has been back to his constituents for re-election.

A caucus of the opposition party will be held this evening and Mr. McBride says that by 10 o'clock to-morrow morning the personnel of his ministry will be known.

In the House.
When the House assembled this afternoon the seat of the newly selected First Minister, Hon. R. McBride, was empty, it being impossible for him to take his place until being reelected by his constituents.

After prayers by Dr. Campbell, Mr. Green immediately rose and moved, seconded by Capt. Tarlow, that His Honor be asked to lay before the legislature all correspondence passing between himself and Premier Prior relative to the Chimney Creek bridge matter.

The resolution being put, several members objected to the resolution.

Mr. Green said that speaking for the member for Dewdney he had to announce that that member had been called

by letter prevented his nominating any one as his successor, as he otherwise might have done.

An excited group of members gathered in the corridors shortly before 2 o'clock. It was known that Mr. McBride was with His Honor and the members waited in expectancy for his return.

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by His Honor and had accepted the task of forming a government. He asked that the House should adjourn until 3 o'clock to-morrow.

Hon. Mr. Prentice proposed a vote expressing the non-confidence in the member for Dewdney. This was ruled out of order.

Mr. Martin thought the House had been treated with discourtesy. There was no announcement of the reason for the adjournment. Mr. McBride had the

right to make his acceptance of office conditional upon a dissolution. The adjournment was apparently for the purpose of patching up a combination to carry on the affairs of the House. He wished to have the Lieut.-Governor come down and dissolve the House and test the strength of Mr. McBride in the country.

Capt. Tarlow called attention to the rapid change in the stand taken by Mr.

McPhillips also showed the inconsistency of Mr. Martin. It was not unusual for gentlemen to take such a course. He was glad to see that His Honor had followed the usual course, and he had called upon the leader of the opposition. It was most unfair to expect that there were more than one leader of the opposition.

He was glad that the usual order had been followed, and this attempt frustrated. The scent courtesy complained of by Mr. Martin was ill taken ground. The lack of courtesy had been altogether on the other side of the House. Why was not the letter sent the ex-Premier by His Honor not brought down to the legislature? It was most unfair to expect the new First Minister to make an announcement so soon after being called upon.

Mr. Oliver recited from the journals of the House in 1900, in which it was recorded that Mr. Martin had been called upon to form a government on the 28th February. That gentleman asked an adjournment until the next day, and that was accorded him. Surely the member for Dewdney should be accorded the same privilege.

He recited also Mr. Martin's change of front on the question of supply.

Being asked what was the speaker's stand on this, Mr. Oliver said that he took the ground that in view of the exposures of matters with which the government was connected that that government was not worthy of confidence, and supply should not be voted them.

Mr. Martin took the ground that the member for Dewdney was mixed up in the Columbia & Western matter.

Mr. Oliver, turning upon Mr. Martin, brought to the attention of that member that he had at late as last session raised his voice in support of the railway company getting these lands. He thought that necessary supply should be granted Mr. McBride.

The motion to adjourn carried by a vote of 18 to 14. Messrs. Wells, Eberts and Clifford voting against enthusiastic demonstrations.

Forty Injured.
In Train Wreck—Passenger Plunged Over an Embankment.

Santa Barbara, Cal., May 30.—Overland passenger train No. 22 was derailed at a point about a mile south of Rincon at 8 o'clock to-night. Four cars plunged down an embankment 40 feet high, two of them partly submerged in the sea.

Forty people were injured, some of them seriously. Many sustained broken bones and were badly bruised.

A special train left this city at 8:30 returned at midnight with all of those who had been most seriously injured, a large corps of physicians having dressed their wounds while en route.

It is not known just what caused the wreck, as no inspection could be made in the darkness. It is believed, however, that the rails spread as the engine was passing over them, throwing the first car, followed by three others, down the steep embankment.

Several other cars left the track, but did not go down the bank.

Montreal Notes.
Unfounded Report Regarding Dominion Iron and Steel Works—Customs Receipts.

Montreal, June 1.—The customs receipts here were \$148,000 over last year.

The directors of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company met on Saturday. Nothing was given out as to the business transacted, but an emphatic denial was given to the story published in a local paper on Saturday that there was a possibility of the works shutting down if the government did not give increased protection.

The longshoremen held a meeting to-day and appointed a committee to wait upon Sir Thomas Shaughnessy. Their complaint is that shippers are not living up to the terms of the agreement. It is not expected trouble will ensue.

Fatalities on Voyage.
Man Died From Sunstroke—Passenger Jumped Overboard.

San Francisco, May 29.—There were two fatalities on the steamer City of Paris, which arrived here from Panama.

Stowell, Ont., May 31.—J. Kox, a well-to-do farmer, living near Britton, was found dead this morning in his barn, with his throat cut from ear to ear. No reason is known for his act.

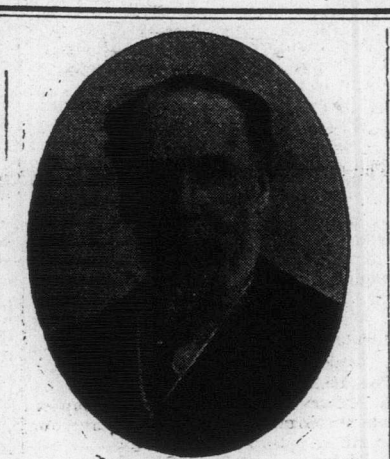
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RICHARD M'BRIDE,
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BIR CHAS. RIVERS WILSON,
President of the Grand Trunk Railway,
Who is Now Visiting This Country.

THE STRIKE SITUATION.
Meeting at Cumberland but No Decision Reached.

Nanaimo, June 1.—Much regret is expressed on all sides at Cumberland that the efforts on the part of the commissioners to settle the strike had been unsuccessful.

At a meeting of the strikers the matter was fully dealt with, but practically nothing was accomplished.

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Swedish and Danish make no soldiers who cannot read and write. In Russia's army 70 per cent. of the men are illiterate.

MANY PERISHED IN THE FLAMES FIRE SWEEPED THROUGH AN ISOLATED TOWN

The Total Number Dead is Not Known—
Thousands Have Been Rendered Homeless.

Kansas City, May 30.—Unprecedented floods are raging in Central and Eastern Kansas, Northwestern Missouri, Eastern Nebraska and Southwestern Iowa, the result of 10 days of almost continuous rainfall. The general situation is considered most grave, with no immediate relief in sight.

Many lives have been lost, and it is estimated that no less than 25,000 persons have been driven from their homes, many of which were washed away. The property loss will run well up into the millions of dollars.

The worst situation is between Kansas City and Ellsworth, Kansas, 200 miles west. The chief sufferer is North Topeka, which has been separated from the main part of the city and become an island.

At Kansas City, and in the suburb town of Armourdale and Argentine, and at Harlan and Sheffield, Mo., near Kansas City, Mo., an aggregate of 10,000 persons have been forced to leave their homes and 8,000 employees of the numerous packing houses and railroad shops in the bottoms are out of employment.

The situation summarizes as follows: Homeless—Kansas, North Topeka, 7,000; near Emporia, 500; Salina, and vicinity, 800; Lawrence, 500; Kansas City, Armourdale and Argentine, 1,000; Missouri—Harlem and Sheffield, 700; Iowa—Des Moines, 600; Ottawa, 200; Nebraska—Lincoln, 200; Beatrice, 200.

The whole of North Topeka, which for hours has been separated from the main part of the city by the flood, is burning, and at this time there are 30 known houses in flames.

The Kansas City fire department has been requested to send aid to fight the fire, and arrangements were immediately made to do so. As the train service between the two cities is badly demoralized, however, it is doubtful if a train could cover the distance in less than 10 hours.

Traffic out of Topeka in all directions is blocked.

People who did not leave North Topeka last night when they had a chance are now in great danger of losing their lives. As far as are beyond reach of rescue, the Kansas river is rising at the rate of three inches an hour.

Thirty are known to be dead, and the list will be larger. Hundreds are missing, and if any portion of North Topeka escapes destruction by the flood, it seems to-night as though fire would finish the work.

The large lumber yards of Jonathan Thomas caught fire this afternoon, and the whole block of houses are burning. Burning houses are floating through the streets and setting fire to others. It is reported that the Union Pacific depot and hotel have been burned.

There is no possibility of quenching the flames. The loss of life will be appalling, and the property loss in the millions. Nobody can tell just what has been destroyed. The water extends around the city and suburbs. Every foot of North Topeka inhabited by 10,000 people is under water.

The current is so strong that no boat can live in it. Seven thousand people have escaped to the south side and are being cared for as well as possible.

The remainder have not yet been accounted for. They have been forced to the top floors or the roofs of buildings, and are waiting for the water to subside or carry them down.

They are safe only so long as the buildings remain standing. Thousands of revolver shots and screams have been heard on the north side as signals for assistance.

Women and children in the west part of North Topeka are standing on the highest points and yet in water to their necks.

It is reported by men who have been in sight of the submerged district, that hundreds there are suffering and sick. The current is so strong that cars are useless, and early in the afternoon a band of men were organized to row as far as possible and swim the rest of the distance.

Several boats and women have been seen struggling in the water.

The river reached the Rock Island depot on First street to-day. The water on Crane street is eight feet deep, and the current is like a mill race. Perhaps a hundred people have been thrown into the water at that point. The river is 25 feet above low water mark, and is still rising, the weather is cold, and the people who have not been rescued are suffering intensely.

Unless they have help soon it is feared that many will die of exposure. In a Baptist church of the African-American denomination of the north side, more than 100 victims of the flood are gathered in danger of being drowned. The work of rescuing and caring for the food survivors is being carried forward systematically.

Contributions are being rushed into the relief committee.

Citizens are opening their homes to survivors, and every indication is that the city will be well able to care for those who have left their homes. Every public building in the city is sheltering scores of homeless people.

Flood conditions are getting worse at Lawrence. More than 500 people in the north part of the town are homeless. The large steel mill belonging to Congressman Bowersstock was destroyed with a loss of \$150,000.

A big rise in the Smoky Hill river tonight caused many more to leave their homes, and hundreds are now encamped on the hills east of the town. The outlook in Council Grove is appalling.

On a smaller scale the situation there is much the same as that of North Topeka. The water has been burned to death in a fire started by slacking lime. Reports received from there late to-night say there is small hope of the water falling for another 24 hours.

Chief of Police Giff and Thos. Page, prominent miller, with their families, are among the many who cannot escape from the flood. The current is rapidly getting stronger, and is sweeping across the city from the north. People are dropping from tops of houses and trees, having become exhausted by their 18 hours' imprisonment, and are being swept away.

Local News

Bear-Admiral Haddock that the torpedo Yawago and Sparrowhawk were captured at Yokohama on Tuesday.

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A meeting of the Social Association will be held at the Y. M. C. A. building on Tuesday.

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Mrs. Henri Gustave Joly de Lotbiniere, wife of Capt. H. G. Joly de Lotbiniere, and daughter-in-law of the Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia, was presented to the King and Queen at the last court at Buckingham Palace. The presentation was made by the Duchess of Portland.

THE FRASER RIVER.
Lynton, B. C., June 1.—The Fraser river to-day is 24 feet above low water.

Mission Junction, June 1.—The Fraser river is rising slowly.

ACCIDENT TO YOSEMITE.
An accident occurred to the steamer Yosemite at an early hour Monday morning when the vessel was en route to Vancouver on her regular Monday trip.

On arrival at Steveston, Capt. Troup was communicated with, and the Tese was dispatched at once to bring down to-night's mail and passengers from Vancouver. She left between 10 and 11 o'clock this morning and will therefore be late in returning.

Wm. Thurborn is among the guests at the Dominion. On Friday he gave an interesting account of a prospecting trip in parts of Vancouver Island, and the Mainland, from his party, including Col. Russell and Charles Shute, has just returned. Last August the trio came to this city, and securing a former pilot

sloop, left with the intention of thoroughly prospecting the northern portion of the Island and parts of the Mainland. The results from a mining standpoint were, he said, unsatisfactory. Prospects were discovered, but nothing of special consequence. The outing, however, was enjoyable. There was always plenty of game—deer, birds, fish, etc.—to be found. When winter showed signs of coming on the party constructed a cabin on a tributary to Knight's Inlet, on the Mainland, where they spent the winter months comfortably.

Farmers' Sons Wanted with knowledge of farm work and fair education, steady employment; must be honest and reliable. Write to J. H. G. in each Province. Apply at once giving full particulars. THE VICTORIA TIMES, 1000, London, Ont.

MINERS' EVIDENCE AT CUMBERLAND

SOME LIGHT ON
THE PRESENT STRIKE

Called Out in Order to Strengthen Men
Who Are Idle at Lady-smith.

Cumberland, May 30.—The sittings of the royal labor commission, which opened here on Wednesday morning, were concluded to-day, the commissioners having gone fully into the causes and circumstances surrounding the present strike and the more important facts connected with the organization of the local branch of the Western Federation of Miners, and its relations with that body.

Officers of the company and the union were examined at length, and evidence from interested third parties also obtained. The most important fact disclosed during the course of the enquiry was that brought to light by the translation of a cipher telegram which was procured after much difficulty by the commissioners. It went to show that the strike at Cumberland had been engineered by officers of the Western Federation to strengthen the position of the men on strike at Lady-smith, and that in reality the Cumberland strike was a sympathetic and not an independent strike, as heretofore assumed.

O. W. Barber, the president of the local union, was the first witness examined. He stated that the union had been organized on April 5th by Mr. Baker, who was unable to say what Mr. Baker had said at this meeting, other than that he had come to organize. The strike had commenced on May 2nd, short notice had been given of the meeting and the strike had been declared because the company had laid off the officers of the union, and had refused to recognize the Western Federation. Witness told of a joint executive meeting held at Nanaimo a week before, at which Mr. Baker had given approval before the strike, and got in by a telegram from Mr. Meyer in reply to one asking for approval.

The commissioners asked for the telegram, and it was the words of this message which gave the clue to the situation. It was from the president and secretary of the Western Federation at Denver to Joe Baker, the Canadian organizer, and read: "We approve of calling out any or all men necessary to win a Lady-smith organization Japanese or Chinese, if possible."

After the reading of this telegram the commission subpoenaed the C.P.R. agent at Nanaimo to produce the telegram to which it was an answer. This telegram was received on Friday. It was dated Nanaimo, April 22nd, and when translated from the cipher read as follows: "Lady-smith asks Cumberland out in sym-

pathy; I approve. Have we your consent? Answer." (Signed J. Baker.)

Before this telegram was read five of the members of the executive, being all of those who had given evidence on behalf of the union, were recalled and questioned again as to whether or not Mr. Baker had initiated the contents of this telegram to them, and as to whether or not they would have been parties to a sympathetic strike. They all declared that they had had no knowledge of the contents of the telegram, and that they would not have been willing parties to a sympathetic strike.

Chief Justice Hunter then stated that the commissioners thought the men should be informed of the nature of the telegram, that they might judge for themselves as to what it implied and the message was accordingly read aloud.

Mr. Barber, the president of the union, stated further in his testimony that a committee of the men two days who had been dismissed, but the management to reinstate officers of the union who had been dismissed, but the management had absolutely refused to deal with them at all so long as they had a union.

David Halliday, treasurer; George Richards, secretary, and William Anthony and John Hutchinson, members of the executive, were the other witnesses who gave evidence on behalf of the union. Their statements corroborated those of the president, additional information having been given as to the opposition of the company to unions in any form.

The commissioners required the production of all correspondence from the officers of the union, and all telegrams from the local agent. A letter among the former from Organizer Baker mentioned that he thought the Western Federation of Miners was in its trial before the commission. Of this statement the Chief Justice remarked that Mr. Baker had never said a truer thing. That if the Federation were a good thing for Canadian workmen the public should know it, if not the public should know it. That no matter who might be affected, the commission was determined to get at all the facts.

Rev. L. W. Hall, a Chinese missionary, only after he was informed that a persistent refusal meant imprisonment, and that no clergyman or minister or priest had any privilege in a court of law, related very reluctantly the many features of an interview which he had had with F. J. Shenton, of Nanaimo, during the time of the strike. The latter had come up to Cumberland to discuss with him methods of organizing the Chinese, acting, he said, as a delegate for Mr. Baker, and as deputy organizer, and in the inquiry of Mr. Baker to come himself. The witness also gave in instances of what he regarded as beneficial effects of the repressive atmosphere occasioned by the company's attitude in the past towards its employees.

James Reid, a miner who was in the company's employ for nine years past, testified as to the method in which the organization meeting had been held. He swore that for a week or two before men from Lady-smith and Nanaimo had been in the camp talking organization; that an unsigned notice calling a mass meeting of miners had been put up a day before the meeting; that at this meeting a Cumberland man was on the platform. Organizer Baker told the meeting he had come to organize, and when he was through speaking, Mr. Barber (the present president) had moved that a branch of the Western Federation be

formed, the motion was seconded. Witness moved an amendment that a branch be not formed, which amendment was seconded. Another speaker proposed leaving the matter over for a week and taking a vote at the pit head. Baker then told the meeting that both the motion and the amendment were out of order. He was there to organize, and those who did not approve of organizing might withdraw. Neither motion nor amendment was put to the meeting. Witness said members became afraid to express their opinions freely, and many whom he had talked with, who had expressed themselves as opposed to organization, remained as opposed to organization.

John Matthews, the manager of the company, testified at length. He submitted statements of the wages, earnings of the company's employees, and statistics as to the strike, and the members of the company. He stated that the officers of the union had been laid off because of their connection with the union, and that the company had always opposed the formation of unions.

Mr. Matthews also presented copies of telegrams sent by the company in regard to the strike. These were in cipher. Some he translated, the others he promised to translate and furnish copies of to the commissioners.

Mr. Matthews every effort to assist the parties to effect a settlement. Mr. Matthews, on behalf of the company, went so far as to concede the men the right to have an organization, and to agree not to discriminate against any officer or member so long as the men did not force the union on the company. The company offered to enter into contracts with each of its employees for two years, on conditions and as to rates of wages precisely similar to those existing previous to the strike. This proposition, which was the one the employees at Lady-smith offered to return to work on if Mr. Dunsmuir would agree to it a week ago, was not accepted here, the men holding out for a recognition of the Western Federation by a contract agreement with the union.

The commissioners left to-day by D. G. S. Quadra for Lady-smith and Nanaimo, at each of which places additional correspondence will be procured if possible. It was expected that this would not take longer than one day, and that the commission would open its sittings at Vancouver on Tuesday morning.

NEGROES DROWNED.
Skills Were Captured and Fifteen Lost Their Lives.

Memphis, Tenn., May 30.—Sixteen negroes, composing two families of cotton plantation hands, were drowned last night in the Mississippi river near Pearl Point, 40 miles north of this city. They left the Cotton plantation on a dark in two skills. Waves from the other naval vessel capsized the frail boats and all hands save one went down. A lad, Will Bell, escaped by clinging to an oar. Seven bodies have been recovered.

PLEAS - ITCHING, BLIND AND BLEEDING - CURED in three to six nights. Dr. Agnew's Ointment is peerless in curing. One application gives instant relief. It cures all itching and irritating skin diseases, Chertons, etc. 25 cents. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co., 143.

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