

EXPOSED BY SIR WILFRID-- DISCLAIMED BY MR. BORDEN-- REPUDIATED BY MR. BARNARD

Colonist Seures Rich Notoriety--Eastern Canada Treated to an Illuminating Exposure of Journalistic Tricks in the West--Conservative Leader's Telegram Was Garbled for Partizan Purposes During Campaign and Name Attached to Spurious "Facsimile."

On Saturday the Times printed a brief statement referring to the distortion of a telegram sent by Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Conservative party in Canada, to the Colonist newspaper of this city, a few days before the elections of Oct. 26th. The statement of Mr. Borden in repudiating the telegram in question was so startling that the Times asked its correspondent in Ottawa to wire full details of the incident as it transpired in parliament. This arrived too late for use in the Saturday edition, but throws so much additional light on the subject that it is given in full below:

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—In the House of Commons yesterday, Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a scathing attack on the trickery and misrepresentation of the opposition election campaign in British Columbia on the question of Asiatic immigration. Sir Wilfrid referred to British Columbia as the only province where the election had been fought upon that principle. The government had been assailed on its immigration policy.

"The government," declared the premier, "takes no exception to the cry for a white Canada, but the opposition offers us no methods by which it should be obtained. We seek to reach a solution of the problem by negotiation and diplomatic action rather than by hostile legislation, which would not be to the best interest of Canada and the British Empire."

He produced an extract from the Victoria Colonist (Conservative), containing a copy of a telegram, said to have been sent by Mr. Borden to Mr. Barnard, and which was used extensively during the campaign. The message, as printed in the Colonist, read: "The Conservative party stands for a White Canada, for protection of white labor, and the exclusion of Asiatics—R. L. Borden."

Mr. Borden arose and somewhat excitedly denied that he had sent a telegram in these words, and asserted that Sir Wilfrid was aware that he denied its authenticity.

"I don't know what the honorable gentleman means," replied Sir Wilfrid rather indignantly. "I have received no such communication. He says, 'Well, one of your colleagues knew that I denied the authenticity of the telegram,'" replied Mr. Borden.

"I accept the honorable gentleman's denial," said the premier, "but I read from a facsimile of the telegram."

Stepping forward Mr. Borden examined the newspaper clipping which lay on the clerk's desk.

"What does the right honorable gentleman mean by a facsimile?" he said, "this is only a typewritten copy," at which there was opposition applause. Sir Wilfrid also stepped up to the table and held up the clipping. "This is printed in different type from newspaper type, and purports to be a facsimile of a telegram," he hurried back amid Liberal applause.

"If my honorable friend did not send this telegram, then his party obtained the seat of Victoria through false pretenses," he thundered amid loud applause.

At the conclusion of Sir Wilfrid's speech, Mr. Borden read the following as the message which he had sent to the Victoria Colonist: "The Conservative party stands for a White Canada and absolute protection of white labor."

"The balance of the telegram" (and the absolute exclusion of Asiatics) "was stuck in by the newspaper people," he added amid Liberal jeers. Sir Wilfrid also, exposed the true nature of the opposition's policy of purity by alluding to Mr. Borden's successful attempt to bribe a whole province by his promises regarding increased subsidies to British Columbia. Mr. Borden had, he said, come under the magnetic influence of that astute politician Hon. Richard McBride, who had taken Mr. Borden to a high mountain and shown him the province at his feet. The honorable gentleman had not the courage to say, "Get thee behind me Satan," and instead had fallen down and worshipped.

Mr. Barnard, making his maiden speech later in the day, referred to the incident of the fabricated telegram in the Colonist, and said:

"As I have to stand in the estimation of members of this House, not only on this side but on the other side as well, as a man of honor and integrity, I deem it proper to make a statement with regard to the telegram. As a matter of fact the telegram was handed me when I was speaking on the platform at a public meeting in Victoria on the evening of Saturday, October 24th, by an emissary of the Colonist newspaper on the reportorial staff. I read the telegram as it was handed to me, and it appeared next morning in the Colonist newspaper in the form in which it was handed me."

"That is all I knew about the telegram at that time. I HEARD AFTERWARDS THAT THERE WAS SOME ALTERATION IN THE TELEGRAM, but I want to say, as my inquiries gave me any information, it was not made either with any knowledge of mine, or with the consent or connivance of the gentlemen who did me the honor of assisting me in any way in my election in Victoria."

By this it appears that in the last days of the campaign in this city, when it was evident that the only hope of the Conservative party in this city of defeating the Minister of Inland Revenue lay in inflaming the public mind on the subject of Oriental immigration, the Colonist newspaper dispatched a telegram to Mr. Borden, the terms of which have never been disclosed, but which was evidently in the nature of a request for some declaration on the Oriental immigration question. Mr. Borden says he replied as follows: "Your message received. The Conservative party stands for a White Canada, and the protection of white labour. R. L. Borden." The dispatch as it was printed next day in the Colonist read as follows: "Your message received. The Conservative party stands for a White Canada, the protection of white labour, AND THE ABSOLUTE EXCLUSION OF ASIATICS." This telegram was given Mr. Barnard and read by him at the Victoria theatre. To give further force to this telegram, and to leave no question regarding its authenticity, an alleged facsimile (which is now shown to have been a forgery) was reproduced in the Colonist, and is herewith presented exactly as it appeared there:

Hallifax, N. S. Oct. 24--1908.

The Colonist,
Victoria.
Your message received. The Conservative party stands for a White Canada, the protection of white labour and the absolute exclusion of Asiatics.
R. L. Borden.

The full force of that dispatch, and its effect on the public mind, are well known. It undoubtedly

TORONTO'S POPULATION.

Toronto, Ont., Jan. 28.—According to the 1906 edition of Migh's directory Toronto's population, including East Toronto and Deer Park, which was annexed to the city in December, is 385,928.

TWO DEAD; ONE INJURED.

Harrison, Ont., Jan. 28.—In a collision of freight trains in a blinding snowstorm at noon yesterday on the G. T. near here, Fireman Root, of Palmerston, and Brake-man Smith, of Southampton, were killed, and Engineer Joe. Arkel was seriously injured.

MANY QUESTIONS WAIT FOR THE GOVERNMENT

Opposition Members Want Information as to Expenditures.

There are a number of questions awaiting the government as soon as the debate on the address is concluded. This afternoon will see the debate finished by John Oliver, from the opposition side, and Attorney-General Bowser.

Dr. Kerwin intends to ask the attorney-general on Monday (the commission of Robert L. McIntosh, of Prince Rupert, as stipendiary magistrate, has been cancelled, and it so for what cause. He will also ask the finance minister the amount collected from timber royalties and timber licenses from Skeena district in the fiscal years ending June 30th, 1907 and 1908.

Mr. Oliver has given notice of several questions he wishes to have answered. To-morrow he will ask how many new liquor licenses were issued last year, and also what amounts of the \$25,378 spent on Canoe Pass bridge were for labor and material. On Monday he will ask the commissioner of works what the beach road in Cowichan cost to construct; what it has cost yearly to repair since then; how many miles of road each of the five road foremen in South Cowichan have to maintain, and how many men each employ; how many men Reid employed, and at what wages in 1907 and 1908, and how much a year it costs the government to gravel the roads in Reid's division.

Mr. Oliver also wants to know what amounts were paid to C. W. Gamble, works department engineer, during 1907-8 and during the six months ending December 31st last, and for what purpose in each case.

The city engineer, H. B. Thompson will introduce relating to the Victoria water works, proposes, besides giving the city power to develop and sell power, that the revenue from the system shall be paid into a fund apart from the general revenue, and shall not be applicable to ordinary civic expenditure unless a two-thirds vote of the council decides to so apply any surplus. It is provided that the indebtedness of water works purposes shall not be included as part of the civic indebtedness authorized under the Municipal Finance Act, and shall be secured by the system and its revenue.

DISFRANCHISE THE SOLDIERS

RUMOR THAT McBRIDE PURPOSES SUCH A STEP

Would Punish Men at Work Point Barracks for Voting Liberal.

It is generally reported that the McBride government intends to disfranchise the members of the Canadian permanent corps on duty in the province, which, of course, strikes at those at Work Point barracks. These men, all Canadians, exercise the franchise in the provincial constituency of Esquimalt and the Dominion constituency of Nanaimo.

Needless to say this act would be one of punishment for what the premier and his attorney-general consider the high crime and misdemeanor of a Canadian citizen casting a Liberal vote. It is a fact that a large number of the men in the service prefer to vote for the party of the people, and that both in the local election two years ago and the federal contest last October they supported the Liberal candidates.

This cannot be allowed, say Mr. McBride and Mr. Bowser, and so in the bill amending the Provincial Elections Act which the attorney-general will introduce in a day or so it is expected that robbing the soldier of his vote will be one of the main features. It will not be surprising, either, if some proposal is made for a general disfranchising of Dominion government officials and employees throughout British Columbia. This would be in line with the McBride policy.

NEW PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING STEEL

Canadian Syndicate Hopes to Make Big Reduction in Cost.

Toronto, Ont., Jan. 28.—Steps have been taken for the formation of a Canadian Steel Company. A syndicate has secured a new process of making steel at a fraction of the present cost and that too from a common ore that is at present plentiful in New Ontario. The new process will reduce the cost of foot steel from \$1.08 to ten cents a pound.

NEW COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS.
Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 28.—Colonel Scott will be retired this week as collector of customs and Andrew Strang will be appointed in his place.

CANADA'S NEW PRIMATE.

Anglican Synod of Toronto to Make Appointment on February 18.

Toronto, Ont., Jan. 28.—The Anglican synod of the diocese of Toronto has been summoned to meet in special session on February 18th, for the purpose of electing a successor to the late Archbishop Sweatman.

JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.

Wellington, N. Z., Jan. 28.—It is likely a Japanese squadron of eight ships will visit Australia early in 1910.

C. N. R. WILL TRAVERSE GOWGANDA COUNTRY

W. Mackenzie Leaves to Inspect Port Arthur to Sudbury Route.

Toronto, Ont., Jan. 28.—William Mackenzie and a party of Canadian Northern engineers are going north on a special trip next week, to look over the proposed route of extension from Port Arthur to Sudbury. It is understood the route will be changed to take in the Gowganda silver country. Mr. Mackenzie is also said to have cast an anxious eye on the mineral deposits of the north shore of Lake Superior and will make an examination with his experts while in the north country.

JUMPS TO DEATH.

Maid Servant Killed Attempting to Escape From Flames.

Newark, N. J., Jan. 28.—A fire which practically destroyed the home of Philip Rankin, a lawyer, to-day resulted in the death of a maid servant, Anastasia Burns, and serious injuries to her sister Nellie, both of whom leaped from the third-story window of the Rankin home. The fire started in the nursery, where two young children of Mrs. Rankin were sleeping, and she rushed in and carried them to safety. The two maids were asleep on the upper floor, and finding their escape by the stairway cut off by flames and smoke they leaped from the windows.

DEPORTING CHINESE.

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 28.—The Trade and Commerce department has ordered the deportation of Wong Ah Chai and Ning King Tong, who recently arrived in Montreal with \$500 in their possession and armed with certificates from the Governor of Yucatan, Mexico, to the effect that they were merchants. An investigation showed them to be laborers and the department was also informed that the \$500 had been loaned to them.

"NIGHT RIDER" TRIAL.

Union City, Tenn., Jan. 28.—The jury in the Marshall "Night Rider" case has disagreed and has been dismissed.

turned the scales in favor of the Conservative candidate, for its terms left no doubt that Mr. Borden was prepared to commit himself to a course of action to which even Mr. McBride had never subscribed. No Asiatic exclusionist could go further, and while many of Mr. Borden's supporters, who knew his caution in such matters, were aghast at his recklessness, the more rabid did not reflect and were stamped into a course of action which turned the trick.

The speeches of Messrs. Borden and Barnard at Ottawa on Friday establish a complete chain so far as evidence is concerned.

(a) Mr. Borden placed the dispatch on the wire, addressed to the Colonist in its original form, containing no reference whatever to the exclusion of Asiatics.

(b) The dispatch was undoubtedly delivered to the Colonist in Victoria by the telegraph company in its original and ungarbled terms.

(c) An hour or two later it was placed in the hands of Mr. Barnard, by a representative of the Colonist, with the addition of the clause, "The absolute exclusion of Asiatics." In this form it was read by him to the audience (evidently in good faith) and so reproduced in the Colonist the following morning.

It is thus conclusively proved that the alteration of the telegram must have taken place between the time of its receipt by the Colonist and its delivery by that paper to Mr. Barnard at the public meeting.

It is the Colonist, therefore, which must be looked to for an explanation. This is all it has to offer: (Vide editorial Colonist, Jan. 24.)

"The Colonist yesterday published a statement made by Mr. R. L. Borden in the House of Commons, to the effect that a dispatch, which appeared in the Colonist previous to the election, and purporting to be signed by him, had not been sent by him. We are bound to accept Mr. Borden's statement, and we express our great regret at having attributed any sentiments to him which he did not express. In printing the dispatch referred to the Colonist acted in perfect good faith."

Part of Heading and Extract.
"Crowded Smoker"
Colonist—Oct. 25th, 1908

CHEERS FOR BORDEN'S WIRE

Clear Cut Pledge to Exclude Asiatics Evokes Tremendous Ovation

The Conservative campaign came to an enthusiastic end last night with a most successful smoker at the A.O.U.W. hall. The building was crowded to the doors with happy, confident voters representative of all sections of the community and all imbued with a single aim. The audience was very much in earnest and when Mr. Barnard read Mr. Borden's telegram stating that the Conservative party stood for the absolute exclusion of Asiatics the roar of applause which went up could be heard on Government street. The whole of that vast audience rose to its feet and shouted and cheered, and it was several minutes before the pro-

Extract Colonist Report
"Crowded Smoker"
Oct. 25th, 1908

Colo-nist Editorial
Oct. 25th, 1908

The greatest ovation occurred when just after Mr. Connell had finished his speech, Mr. Barnard got up and read the following telegram:
Halifax, N.S., Oct. 4 1908
The Colonist, Victoria.
Your message received. The Conservative party stands for a white Canada, the protection of white labour and the absolute exclusion of Asiatics.
R. BORDEN
He had hardly finished reading it when the audience rose as one man and fairly shouted itself hoarse. After several minutes of uproar three cheers and a tiger were enthusiastically given by Mr. R. L. Borden, following this up with "He's a Jolly Good Fellow." It was all that was needed to cap the climax, and was a striking proof of how heady in earnest are British Colonians on the vital question of Asiatic exclusion, that life and death matter for the future of the province with which the Liberals have so recklessly played fast and loose.
The Song's Feature.

NO MONEY FOR BEAUTIFICATION

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ASSIST

Premier McBride Makes Statement During Debate on Address.

Legislative Press Gallery, Jan. 25. The leaders were heard from to-day on the address, J. A. Macdonald speaking for a little over an hour, and Premier McBride for about half as long again. The speech of the leader of the opposition will be found on another page. It was one of his best efforts and dealt comprehensively with the political issues of the province. He was followed point by point by the premier, who is not as much at home in a set speech on the floor of the House as he is on the stump.

There was not a large gathering of listeners in the galleries and the leader of the government had few of his supporters behind him as he spoke.

Victoria will be interested in the references to the Tasse scheme for the beautification of the city. Mr. Macdonald endorsed it and approved of a government grant, but Premier McBride turned it down cold.

Just before the House adjourned the re-appearance of the Socialist leader took place. The certificate of his election had been read at the opening of the sitting. Mr. Hawthornthwaite slipped into his seat quietly at the last minute and then advanced between Parker Williams, of Newcastle, and John Innis, of Grand Forks. He evidently did not relish the parade but it had to be gone through. His sponsors appeared to be aware there was a form of words for such an occasion, but did not know them, and so "the honorable gentleman's right to take his seat" was not claimed. All three advanced to the foot of the speaker's dais, bowed, the speaker murmured and acknowledgment and the trio moved off with an air of relief that it was over.

Mark Eagleson, the veteran of the Cariboo road, was in his place yesterday and was warmly welcomed by his colleagues. The only member of the opposition side yet to arrive is Stuart Henderson, who is detained up country on legal business.

The Premier's Reply.

Premier McBride congratulated the leader of the opposition on his promise to offer assistance in perfecting legislation and promised to take him at his word. He hoped for more support from the other side than in days gone by, not that he desired to criticize but that he thought the opposition might easily give more assistance to the government.

As to the speech, the government had tried to comprise in it all matters on which it thought reference might come from the representative of the crown. He had to congratulate the member for Columbia (Mr. Parson) for the splendid manner in which he had moved the address in reply. His colleague from Victoria (Mr. Davey) had grappled with questions of more than passing moment in a manner which did him credit.

Dealing with Mr. Macdonald's reference to the filling of the new portfolio, the premier denied that he had ever been importuned by or on behalf of any gentleman, but had always exercised his own unbiased choice. He had ever been favored in the supporters who sat behind him and there was nothing but the very best of relationship between himself and them. Of the Quebec and Simon Fraser celebrations, the premier spoke eloquently and thanked the leader of the opposition for his remarks in regard to the latter.

A hearty tribute was paid to the pluck and energy of the people of Fernie and the untiring efforts of its member (W. B. Ross) and all its public men, as a result of which there was growing up to-day what would be, before the first anniversary of the fire, the best, cleanest and most substantially built town in the west.

Water Clauses Act.

It did not follow, the premier said, that because the speech did not mention all the subjects of coming legislation it fell short of the functions of a speech from the throne. The revision of the Water Clauses Act he could assure the House, would be undertaken with care, and efforts would be made, while affecting no existing records, to secure for lands in the dry belt a more equitable and more reasonable supply of water. The bill would be presented in the next day or two, and ample time would be given for its perusal before it was taken up. Criticism and assistance from the opposition side in the passage of this bill would be welcomed. Here was a golden opportunity for the members opposite to redeem their past remissness in this regard.

The premier declared himself unable to understand what was meant by a speculator in timber lands. Everyone in British Columbia was more or less a speculator, and no one who had anything to sell and saw an opportunity to turn over a little money could be blamed. As compared with the Dominion, the premier asserted, the public interest had more protection from the present timber laws of British Columbia than from those of the Dominion. With an extension of the time of lease these laws would be perfect. Such an extension had been urged by business bodies and the government had the matter under consideration with a view to the adoption of some comprehensive law that would meet the case acceptably and fully. The government was aware of the importance of conserving our timber resources and would endeavor

(Continued on page 7.)

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