

VENALITY ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF.

The defence of Chief Commissioner Green for accepting \$37,000 worth of shares of the stock of a land speculating syndicate which was seeking favors from the government has now been fully disclosed. It is a rather rambling and very contradictory defence, but it must be accepted, we suppose, as the best the defenders of the minister have to offer. The first inclination of the ministerial partners of Mr. Green and of the organs was to deny that there was any truth whatever in the allegations that the late Chief Commissioner had been offered or had accepted any consideration whatever. But now that Mr. Green, doubtless impelled by the knowledge that there is in existence and available correspondence of a most compromising character, has admitted over his own signature that the shares were received and accepted by him, there was of course nothing left for them to do but to admit that the shares had passed and to place the matter in the most favorable light possible before a shocked community. Consequently it is asserted that while Mr. Green may have been indiscreet, his character is so firmly established by his record as an administrator that the idea of his being influenced by such a paltry bribe is so ridiculous as to be unworthy of a moment's consideration.

If Mr. Green had been a man of reasonable, not to say high, conception of his duties to the public and to himself, what should have been his first action as soon as he received that gift, not matter what its current or its prospective value as an "investment"? He says himself that he turned it over to the Premier's private secretary, who "just happened" to be holding "official" converse with him at the time he was going through his correspondence. The natural and the right thing for any minister in any government to have done under such circumstances would have been to have returned the shares with a fitting rebuke to the gentleman who had offered them. What Mr. Green did, he says, was to throw the gift across the table to Mr. MacKay, the Premier's private secretary, with an intimation that he might make whatever use of it he pleased. It appears Mr. MacKay had received his political education in the peculiar school in which Premier McBride and his friend Mr. Green are masters; because we suppose it will not be denied that he retained the shares Sir Adolph Caron sent merely as a testimonial of the high esteem in which he held his friend the late Chief Commissioner.

These are the salient facts in connection with this admittedly somewhat shady transaction. There are other facts which may be considered as worthy of serious consideration—facts of peculiar significance. The internal administration of the Lands and Works Department was not satisfactory to the late Chief Commissioner. Some changes were necessary. The deputy minister of Lands and Works was superseded on a handsome pension and Mr. MacKay, the custodian of the \$37,000 worth of shares, was appointed in his place. The chief clerk was set aside without any consideration being bestowed upon him at all. The Lands and Works Department machinery was placed in a condition in which it could be depended upon to work smoothly—without making any noise that would be likely to attract inconvenient attention. The doleful Mr. MacKay, however, it was evidently supposed, could be of more service to his deposed chief outside than inside of the Lands and Works Department, consequently he was taken up to the riding of Kaslo and set up by Mr. Green as a fit and proper person to represent that constituency in the Legislature. The discriminating elector will discern the fact that there is an intimate connection between all the peculiar political events to which we have called his attention. Whatever use Mr. MacKay may be put to by his intimate friend, Mr. Green, in the future, it is not likely the future will ever reveal because a victory for Mr. MacKay, even with all the resources his unscrupulous and discredited chief is bringing to bear on his behalf, is inconceivable. We refuse to believe that the public of British Columbia, even after three years and a half of McBrideism, has been debauched to such an extent as such a result would indicate.

WHEN THE COLONIST SPOKE THE TRUTH.

The Colonist was not always so enthusiastic in its support of the Socialist-McBride government as it is today. Naturally the question will be asked, what has the McBride government done since it came into power to win the unqualified admiration of our contemporary? Has the administration of the Lands and Works Department been such as to win the emphatic endorsement of a newspaper which professes to speak unreservedly in the interests of the community it feigns to serve? We ask this question because at the time the McBride government was formed our contemporary expressed its conviction that the Premier was likely to precipitate the Conservative party into a gulf from which it would find considerable difficulty in extricating itself. Here are its words: "It is quite evident that the condition of the Conservative party calls for

very careful handling, and for loyalty to the party. The man from whom loyalty to the party is most required is the Hon. Richard McBride. If he is under the impression that what is required is for the Conservative party to show loyalty to him, he is putting the cart before the horse. So far, he has made claims upon the party. They have been met out of considerations of party loyalty, not out of consideration for him. The party has some, it has many, claims upon him. Are these going to be met? Does he propose to put himself in the hands of the Conservative party, or does he propose that the Conservative party shall put itself in his hands? Between those two propositions there is a great gulf fixed, and the question is just this, whether Mr. McBride is going to precipitate the Conservative party into that gulf, or himself to bridge it over? We regret exceedingly that it is in his power to choose between those two alternatives. Because he lacks the essential qualities of determination and decisiveness which a leader in critical times requires. We have only to hope that what we could not owe to his astuteness and political sagacity, we may receive from the deep sense of party loyalty which pervades his person. Now having said that we expect party loyalty from Mr. McBride, it is certainly a fair question to ask in what manner we think he should exhibit it. In the first place, there is no possible combination of circumstances which could have caused more deep-seated bitterness in loyal and influential Conservative circles than the coup d'état which involves his holding power through the votes of his late opponents. It is a fact that every action of Mr. McBride may be explained by the motive that he desired to put himself in office, and not the Conservative party. Such a motive could explain, and to many does explain, his whole action from beginning to end. It is certainly the duty of Mr. Charles Wilson to realize, with great searchings of heart, the extent to which that portion of the Conservative party represented at the Revelstoke convention is recognized and embraced in the government, which proposes to appeal to the country. If he is prepared without a due understanding to throw his lot in with the present government, he should remember that Mr. John Houston of Nelson, and Colonel E. G. Prior of Victoria, were at least as zealous at Revelstoke in the cause of party lines to which he owes his political importance, as Mr. R. F. Green, of Kaslo, Mr. McBride, of Dewdney, or Mr. A. E. McPhillips, of Victoria. It must further be remembered that the position of Mr. McBride in reference to a very large section of the Conservative party is complicated by the series of political events leading up to Bill No. 16 (which proposed to convey to the C. P. 2, the valuable coal areas of South-east Kootenay). There are a number of Conservatives who will ask what difference in reality exists between Mr. D. M. Eberts and Mr. R. McBride that the one should be brought low and the other elevated as the result of matters to which it is needless to refer. Some of these queries will be put from a point of view sympathetic to Mr. Eberts, and some from a hostile point of view. But from whichever point of view they are asked, the different positions now occupied by the two gentlemen will cause comment in the Conservative party, and if it causes one portion of the party to distrust Mr. McBride, it will certainly cause another to resent him. Here is another direction in which party loyalty calls loudly to Mr. McBride. Mr. John Oliver, of Delta, is furnishing up his weapons on this question, and is about to stalk his old leader. So far as it is a personal matter, we believe Mr. McBride is amply able to care for himself, as is Mr. Eberts. But we have a strong objection, an objection we know to be shared by a very large and influential section of the Conservative party, to have Mr. Oliver, or anyone else, go gunning after the leader of the party upon any such issue.

Two years later, when the McBride government had created a portion of the record which reeks so high to-day, the Colonist thus further expressed its opinion: "The session (1905) ends with the government of Hon. R. McBride still in the saddle, but its results have weakened instead of strengthening the ministry in the eyes of the people. The electorate will recognize and accentuate the undeniable fact that it is highly dangerous for any government to seek to carry on with so variable and insufficient a majority as to make recourse to the support of a party, divergent from its own, a first necessity of existence in power. Hon. Mr. McBride and his ministry, it appears to many, would have better proven their recognition of their duties to British Columbia had they set their political course and held to it even in the face of defeat through devotion to a decisive and consistent Conservative policy recognizing and based upon the necessities of the province as it is to-day." That was the opinion of the Colonist less than two years ago. We ask the public if such a mentor can be considered a safe guide in the crisis which faces the province of British Columbia to-day with a ministry upon trial for offences unparalleled for their disregard of public opinion, of the rights of the public in the public domain, and of common honesty?

What has that worthy native son, Mr. Harry Helmcken, to say about the treatment of Victoria by McBride in regard to the university question?

THE GLOBE'S VIEWS.

Friends of the McBride government profess to attach a great deal of importance to the opinions of the "Globe" to Globe. They are unquestionably justified in such expressions. The Globe is now, as it has been since the day of its first issue, the most influential and the most patriotic Canadian newspaper published in the Dominion. It has always maintained that our public men should be of unquestioned repute and of high ideals. Here is the Globe's opinion of the manner in which the government which made the deal has maintained and must continue to maintain itself in power if it remains in existence for another legislative term: "The province has special problems to solve. The work of rendering its valleys easily accessible is no light one. The passage of transcontinental railways to tidewater will incidentally contribute to internal development and to the solution of some of the transportation problems, which the 'sea of mountains' renders decidedly difficult. To a province in that stage of its evolution more than straight government is more than commonly essential. When men whose views do not and cannot be made to harmonize are found working together the outlook for the interests committed to them is ominous. There is no tie of principle between Mr. McBride and the Socialist members upon whose votes he counts as surely as upon those of his Conservative followers. That sort of alliance always ends in just such a manner as the grant of Kaslo Island to the Grand Trunk Pacific for a song. A victory for the opposition so decisive as to put the affairs of the province in the hands of a strong and homogeneous party is an event that would inure to the general advantage of the province."

MCINNES'S YUKON RECORD.

Mr. McInnes made a reputation in the Yukon by turning down with unflinching regularity the association of grafters known in the North as the "Tabas."

It is true that the "Tabas" assumed the name "Liberal," although most of them were well known to be Conservatives a few years ago, and some of them were officials in the Conservative organization in this province about the year 1898.

The first encounter of that disreputable organization with Commissioner McInnes was a few months after his arrival in Dawson, when the great cordwood scandal was discovered; and as a result of several high officials being implicated in defrauding the government everyone in any way connected with the frauds was given his discharge.

It is a matter of history that the "Tabas" committee sought hard to save their friends because they were "good Liberals," but the decision of the Commissioner was inexorable. He was backed up by Ottawa and the whole "bunch" had to walk the plank.

The offence was one of those clumsy frauds which would only be attempted by a class of men who believed everyone to be as dishonest as themselves. The only fuel used in Dawson at the time was cordwood, and in such a severe climate enormous quantities were consumed. For the several buildings a different official measured the wood at each, although one man could as easily have done the job for all.

Suspicion was aroused, a re-measurement was ordered, and it was found that the contractor who supplied all the buildings, was obtaining receipts for 25 per cent. more than he supplied, and, strange to say, the error was for the same quantity in every case.

CONVICTED ON HIS OWN EVIDENCE.

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Ladies' White Serge Coat, 7-8 length, Empire style with double box pleat from yoke in back, collar and cuffs of green pannel velvet, covered with rich white applique, yoke piped with green and stitched same style with red velvet and pipings to match; regular \$27.50, Tuesday's Special \$9.75

Ladies' 7-8 length white Serge Coat, plain box collar, full sleeves, with stitched straps, outside pockets, yoke and sleeves lined with white satin; regular values \$20.00, Tuesday's Special \$9.75

Ladies' cream Serge Coat, 7-8 length, double box pleated, back trimmed with stitched straps, blue velvet collar, full sleeves with deep cuff, lined throughout with white taffeta; regular value, \$20.00, Tuesday's Special \$9.75

Department E, Second Floor
A limited number of Children's Dresses on special sale to-morrow; regular value \$2.50 to \$5.00, to-morrow \$1.25
Children's Pina-fores regular \$1.35 down to 40c., on special sale to-morrow 25c

Gent's Furnishing Department
Men's Shirts at Less than One Half
A few dozen Men's Shirts will be placed on sale to-morrow morning; regular values \$1.25 and \$1.50, to-morrow each shirt 65c

Boy's Buster Brown Suits
On Sale To-morrow at One Half in the Boy's Clothing Department
A limited number only of these popular suits whose regular values are \$3.50 to \$5.00, \$2.50 on special sale at each

Another Great Rush into the Boot and Shoe Department
Womens' Misses' and Children's Felt Slippers, regular values pair, 75c, to-morrow's price 25c
In this unprecedented offer be sure you satisfy yourself at the time of purchasing. Special sales absolutely prohibit a re-opening of the purchase. No exchanges, no returns, no money refunded, no appros or goods charged.

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Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. Later he qualified the statement, possibly after learning that certain Conservatives in Vancouver had disclosed the fact of the incriminating correspondence between Mr. Green and Sir Adolph Caron. Finance Minister Tatlow declared that if any coal licenses had been issued they had been issued in the usual regular course and that there was nothing in the transaction at all discreditable to the late Chief Commissioner. President of the Council Cotton has given his views: they are in substance that if there has been anything between Mr. Green and Sir Adolph Caron the members of the present government cannot be held responsible as Mr. Green is no longer of the government; that, on the contrary, the government ought to be commended, inasmuch as it has deposed the offender from office and cleared the way for an honest administration of the affairs of the Lands and Works Department. Finally, after a delay of some days, doubtless devoted to a careful consideration of the matter, Mr. Green himself comes forward with a statement, first denying all the charges, and, second, winding up by the following, which ought to be convincing to the public that the whole case against the government has been proved "up to the hilt," to use a favorite Conservative phrase: "After the license in the Telqua valley were granted, and before the applications for licenses in the Pine river district were before the department, Caron, whom I know very well, wrote me, saying he desired to allot me a few shares of stock in a company to be organized. I did not wish any of the stock. Mr. MacKay, then secretary to the Premier, was in my office when I received the letter. I showed it to him, saying I did not want the stock, and that if he cared to take it he could have it, remarking that while I did not consider it of much value, it possibly might be worth something to him

some day. He signified his willingness to take the stock, and I notified Caron to issue it to him."

Does any one suppose that if the correspondence between Green and Caron had not been in existence and in the hands of men who were prepared to prove their case by it that the late Chief Commissioner would have made the admissions above disclosed? Would he not have denied with emphasis, even with the emphasis of an oath, that neither he nor his late deputy, the man whom he has set up as a candidate in his old constituency and whom it was the purpose of the government to place in the position of Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works in order that the dark transactions of that department might be kept in safe keeping, had received any shares in the coal syndicate from Sir Adolph Caron or from any one else acting on behalf of Sir Adolph? Has the public carefully considered the position in which the admission of Mr. Green places the government? Are not all the ministers, individually and conjointly, equally responsible with Mr. Green for the brazen disregard of public and private morality which has been the chief feature of the conduct of that department since the McBride government took office? Is the public not now convinced that half has not been told about the manner in which the affairs of the Lands and Works Department have been administered, not alone by the late Chief Commissioner, but by all the members of the administration, and that the only way in which honesty in the conduct of public affairs can be secured is by condemning the whole cabinet, turning out the whole gang of corruptionists and placing the government of the province in the hands of men pledged to give the public honest, honorable and efficient administration?

The few paid rooters of the grand old party are already getting hoarse. A new crowd will have to be hired before the end of the week.

A PARTIZAN RETURNING OFFICER.
Mr. Inverarity, the gentleman who has been appointed to discharge the duties of returning officer in Esquimaux constituency, seems to have very peculiar views in respect to his official position. Possibly he has not taken the oath prescribed by law, or it may be that Mr. Inverarity as a partizan regards with disdain the limitations of the law's provisions. We presume the Esquimaux returning officer has sworn that he will impartially and without fear, favor or affection discharge the duties of his office. At the Socialist-Conservative meeting held at Metcosen Thursday Mr. Inverarity occupied the extraordinary position of being one of the speakers on behalf of Mr. Pooley, declaring his affection for him, urging the small company assembled to vote for him, and plainly intimating that he would do all in his power to secure his return. It is not at all probable that Mr. Inverarity's advice will be followed or that Mr. Pooley as the candidate of what he described as "the best government the province ever had" will be elected, but in such an improbable event is the returning officer aware that his partizan conduct might be considered sufficient to impair the position of his favorite—to cause the loss of his seat.

Mr. Inverarity should be compelled to take the oath again, with special emphasis upon his obligations.

The government candidates in this city take the discreet course of ignoring entirely the unsavory record of the government. They repeat the formula that we have enjoyed good times for the past three years and therefore it would be very unwise to "swap horses." If they stick to that method of conducting a campaign they will not be likely to make a lasting impression upon the minds of the electors. They will pass into oblivion immediately the votes are counted. But they will not be guilty of such contradictions as the members of the government have committed. Mr. McBride says no licenses have been issued to Sir Adolph Caron's company, Mr. Tatlow says the licenses were issued in the usual way, while Mr. Bower, who thinks he will soon be a member of the government, says Mr. Green is personally responsible, and that the other members of the government are therefore not on trial. What can the people think of the whole tribe of corruptionists.

Hon. R. G. Tatlow, speaking in Vancouver, said the coal leases to Sir Adolph Caron's Transportation and Exploration Syndicate were issued in the usual manner. From Vernon Premier McBride telegraphs that not an acre of coal lands has been leased to the company. The members of the government should not say a word about the affair until they have come together and agreed upon a story. These contradictions are apt to confirm the public in their belief that not a single transaction put through the Lands and Works Department since the present government took office has been free from the taint of corruption.

One cause of quarrel between Mr. Charles Wilson and his late colleagues was that the former's hair stood on end so persistently that it kept the cabinet in a continual state of nervousness. The guilty consciences could stand it no longer. Now the late Attorney-General is trying to smooth his ruffled top in the wilds of Cariboo. Should the present government by any strange chance continue in office until success attends the efforts of the would-be member for Cariboo he will be readmitted to the sacred councils.

It is years now since the Colonist championed a cause that was successful. We are sorry that such earnest efforts should be again doomed to disappointment.

Local

—Lucia Francis, Mrs. Prather, of Joseph King hospital, remains were sent today by W. J. Han

—A false alarm chievious person from Montreal and Bay Thursday, for nothing. The found.

—Rev. Dr. Chown for the moral reform Methodist church, at the Y. M. C. A. subject of "Good Politics."

—The postal office owing to transportation difficulties at outside of some suburban section promptly, and residents are requested to be cordoning.

—A meeting of the Dolin Club was held at the residence of Mrs. J. prior street, the of the disbanding of the club. The resignations of were duly tendered the honorary president. In future the meeting presided over solely.

—Under the title of the Company, when incorporated in 1900, have purchased property on the 100 and Superior streets for a business block. The building is the largest in West of the city. The purpose of the plan is to keep in the English and French place in service an ally to capable of.

—Miss Olga North a wire from Dr. P. regarding the matter would be too limited delivering a lecture under the auspices of the Society. She will leave immediately after on Monday evening, where she will deliver a lecture "Plague," telling her England.

—The annual business, Fifth Reg., in the Dallas hotel, report had been discharging loans were presented to the King and the "Family," "The Press States," to which responded, "The Mayor of the City of Victoria Major Currie," "Our of Mr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," and The Ladies, were given by Hon. Richardson Sergeant, Peter Sergt. Harry Prior, and humorous Angus.

—A Chinaman was going to the mine, emigration of although sane to a possession, a hallucination that a Canbrook, wished to see the latter place. He called the notion that who was quite unawares had gone to China, at Canton to find her, search after spending time and money on the young woman, and Canada. He is now peculiarly insane, and every other respect. The steamer sailed and

TORTURING SUFFERER
A SEVERE CASE CURED BY WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS
Fierce darting pains—palms hot, needles being driven through the thigh; driven to legs to the ankles—the patient None but the victim can realize. But the sufferer need be discouraged for there is a cure. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills make new blood, the feeds and strengthens the flesh from their pain. It banished to stay banished—complete. Mr. Charles B. O'Neil, has been cured of a severe sciatica and wishes other to hear of his cure that they by his experience. He says wards of five years I was a sufferer from sciatica. In while getting up I would agonizing pains in my hips. These pains extended down sometimes down the other; both. The pain was terrible the agony caused by a red being driven through the leg was just my feeling when it was at its worst. Often wigs water to the horses that came so acute I had to drive in the middle of the yard. doctor's treatment, but with relief. I then tried rheumatism and liniments, but these did me at all. Then I decided Williams' Pink Pills a trial they did not seem to help. They had been so highly recommended I had noticed a change in my stronger and my appetite increased. I had used the pills about five months before I was cured, but though that was ago I have not since had a return of sciatica. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a medicine, and so does my use them as a blood builder. They have no equal and need of praising them to her friend Good blood is the secret of health. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Sold by medicine by mail at 50 cents a box for \$2.50. From the Dr. Williams' Co., Brockville, Ont.