

CONSERVATIVE CONDITIONS MADE PERTINENT

The Local Tories Forced to a Condition That Takes Them Out of the Financial Doldrums of Provincial Penury.

A Plain Statement of Facts and Information That Allows Prosperity to Obtain in the Kootenays and the Province.

Rossland Conservatives convened at their regular weekly meeting last night at the Grand Union Hotel. There was a larger attendance than usual, and before the close of the proceedings considerable interest was manifested.

In calling the meeting to order President Goodeve made a very pertinent and happy address. He explained in detail the object and the result of Hon. Richard McBride's recent visit. He showed that the premier's presence in Rossland was strictly in the interests of good government; that politics and public meetings were not then a part of his program.

When the campaign is fairly under way Mr. McBride and others of his cabinet will visit the Kootenays and do the straight political stunt. Meanwhile, it is sufficient, and at the same time gratifying, to know that we have a premier who is conscientious enough to attend to matters of state first and make politics wholly a secondary consideration.

President Goodeve acted with his proverbial impartiality in calling upon speakers to address the assemblage. A number responded to his cordial invitation to speak.

After all these preliminaries, C. E. Race briefly addressed the meeting. He had a number of resolutions to present for discussion and consideration. This was the first time during the present campaign that local Tories branched out from ordinary campaign routine. Mr. Race offered his resolutions modestly but with evident seriousness. They were only four in number, but they covered the vital issues that are at stake so far as the masses are concerned. While accepting the responsibility of fathering the ideas espoused in the resolutions, Mr. Race stated that he preferred to allow each resolution to speak for itself. He therefore handed them to Secretary Bowman to read. The first one dealt with Oriental immigration and read as follows:

Resolved, that the local Tories be informed, but a few present desired that his statements, as expressed in the resolution, be fully substantiated.

The next resolution dealt with the Kootenay mineral industry. It is as follows:

Whereas the smelters of Southern British Columbia are unable, and ever have been unable, to obtain an adequate and economical tonnage of coke, because the local source of supply is controlled by one company, which thereby enjoys a complete monopoly; and whereas this state of affairs necessarily restricts the output of all the large metalliferous mines, retards the development of the country, lessens the profits on the ore mined, keeps capital from local investment and hampers the prosperity of all classes in the district, the province and the country to an alarming extent;

And whereas there is an almost unlimited supply of excellent coal on certain crown lands in Southeast Kootenay, which is unquestionably open to location under the laws of British Columbia, regardless of any government reserve upon the surface rights of the said land;

And whereas the practice of making government reserves on surface rights of crown lands is pernicious, vicious and inimical to the welfare of the country and therefore intolerable;

And whereas a large number of coal locations have been made in strict compliance with the law by men who are able and willing to provide an adequate and economical fuel supply;

And whereas the government of British Columbia has refused without good cause or justification to issue to these people licenses to said locations;

Therefore be it resolved by the Rossland Conservative Association in regular meeting assembled—

1. That we denounce the condition that we hereby record our emphatic disapproval in regard to the provincial government not having issued coal licenses to those who are applicants for the same and who have complied with all the requirements of the law, and now strongly urge the government to issue the said licenses without further delay, thus insuring great and general prosperity throughout British Columbia and at the same time creating a source of revenue to the provincial treasury that will show an annual surplus instead of a deficit as is the case at present.

Whereas the Liberal government at Ottawa has only recently raised the Chinese poll tax to \$500, but even at this late date carefully arranged that the law shall not go into effect until next year;

And whereas the said Liberal administration continues to allow Japanese to come unrestricted to Canada;

And whereas the presence of these Orientals in British Columbia is a serious menace to white labor and the general prosperity of the country;

Therefore be it resolved by the Rossland Conservative Association in regular meeting assembled that we hereby record our protest against these conditions and pledge the unremitting efforts towards the total exclusion of both Chinese and Japanese from Canada.

It was promptly seconded amid much applause, but the more conservative element desired to have additional information as to the actual nature of the Ottawa act, and for this reason it was allowed to lie over until the next meeting. Mr. Race's sincerity was not questioned, but a few present desired that his statements, as expressed in the resolution, be fully substantiated.

The third resolution was then called for. It embodies the ideas of The Miner, so far as a provincial fiscal policy is concerned. It speaks for itself, and reads as follows:

Whereas the treasury of the province of British Columbia annually shows a deficit instead of a surplus; and whereas a government return was made at the last session of the provincial legislature which shows that the railways and the big dividend-paying corporations only pay taxes to the extent of one-tenth the proportion paid by the small holder, the struggling merchant and the miner and the masses generally;

And whereas if the said railways and big dividend-paying corporations paid their fair share of taxation, the provincial treasury would be enriched to an additional extent of something more than a quarter of a million dollars;

And whereas the inauguration of this practice would show a surplus instead of a deficit, and thus permit a reduction of the present amount of taxation paid by the poorer element of the population;

Therefore be it resolved by the Rossland Conservative Association in regular meeting assembled that we protest against the present fiscal system that countenances these unjust and distressing conditions and pledge the association and its candidate at the forthcoming elections to lose no opportunity to introduce and secure remedial legislation along these lines.

The fourth and last resolution dealt with the interests of the mine toilers in the following manner:

Whereas it is currently reported that an attempt will be made to induce the next provincial legislature to repeal the eight hour law;

And whereas the Rossland Conservative Association that it is emphatically opposed to the repeal of the said law, and the association now pledges its influence towards the retention of the law upon the provincial statute books.

This resolution was carried with a whoop. Even the most plutocratic of those present readily assented.

Mr. Race then requested that the resolutions in regard to the inadequate coke supply and the question of unfair taxation be then adopted. He was seconded by Messrs. Thompson, McNeill and Goodeve. Mr. Race insisted upon a vote, in order to get, not only the sense of the meeting, but to see who was who. He said he did not care how much opposition was offered. If the Conservative party intended to stand by the masses against the dividend-paying corporations, it must adopt these sentiments as a part of its policy, not only in the Rossland riding, but elsewhere. He stood for the law and equity. If the party dared to equivocate upon these issues, it must certainly expect defeat, and rightly so.

The meeting then adjourned till next Friday night.

WHY BLAIR RESIGNED

The Premier's Explanation in the House Yesterday.

Difference of Opinion Regarding the Grand Trunk.

OTTAWA, July 16.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the house this afternoon gave the following explanation regarding the resignation of Mr. Blair from the cabinet: "It is my duty to give the house the explanations to which it is entitled concerning the resignation of my honorable colleague, the member for the city of St. John, New Brunswick, as a member of the cabinet and minister of railways."

"In view of the rapid development of the country, of the flood of immigration into the fertile section west of Lake Superior, and of the industrial movement in the provinces, the government have come to the conclusion that a new trans-continental railway between east and west to the Pacific coast has become a necessity. With this view the honorable member had always expressed his assent, but a difference of opinion arose between him and his colleagues as to the mode of construction and operation."

"No final plan has yet been adopted, though a basis has been reached for the construction of a line to be built and owned by the government through a commission, but to be operated by the company under special provisions to make it a common highway to all railway companies from Moncton to Winnipeg and for the construction of a line to be built by the company with the assistance of the government from Winnipeg to the Pacific coast at Port Simpson."

"This plan the honorable member has two objections."

"First.—To the construction of that section of the above mentioned line lying between Moncton and Quebec, he being of the opinion that such line would parallel the Intercolonial railway, an opinion from which we entirely dissent."

"Second.—To the immediate construction of the section between Quebec and the Pacific coast and to the suggested mode of construction."

"In consequence of this difference of opinion between his colleagues and himself, the honorable member on the 10th inst. tendered his resignation to the prime minister. Conferences then took place between the prime minister, with the assistance of one of his colleagues, and the honorable member, and finally on the 14th his resignation was accepted."

The prime minister, while expressing for himself and other members of the administration his great regret at the severance from the cabinet of an able colleague, is happy to believe that the honorable member upon all questions of public policy except this one, is in accord with the government.

Mr. Blair, in reply, gave a full and frank statement of the whole matter, but could not go fully into the merits of the question, as the cabinet had not finally decided the whole question. He had decided to resign a week ago on Saturday last, but he held it back until such time as he had put through the railway commission bill. It was not until Monday last, the 13th, that the resignation was finally put in and accepted. Before giving his reasons for resigning he referred in the strongest terms a statement appearing in the press that there was any difficulty between himself and his colleagues. He likewise characterized as untrue the stories in the press that members had treated him meanly on the railway commission bill. His sole reason for leaving the cabinet was in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific, particularly as to the paralleling of the Intercolonial.

Mr. Blair also objected to the government building a road half way across the continent, but approved of the trans-continental line. If not built all the way by the government he would approve of a company built road, the government guaranteeing three fourths of the bonds. He also wanted delay and a thorough exploration of the country before embarking on so gigantic a project. It was as soon as the above time when he took his seat. The galleries of the house were crowded when the ministers were making their explanations.

Mr. Blair complained in one of his letters that he was not consulted at the early stages of the negotiations with the Grand Trunk.

In reply Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that he wanted to keep the negotiations in his own hands until well advanced, always informing the council of what had taken place. In accepting Blair's resignation Sir Wilfrid said that he regretted to do so, more especially at a time when the country wanted a bold and fearless policy on transportation.

The ministerial vacancy may not be filled for some time. It is said Mr. Fielding may undertake the administration of the railways department for the present.

Just before the train was scheduled to depart on Sunday evening fifty or seventy-five Le Roi men gathered at the depot, headed by R. Roscoe Leslie, superintendent. Mr. Vance was called out of the depot and handed a handsome case containing the timepiece and chain. Mr. Leslie remarked that the employees of the Le Roi could not suffer him to depart without some tangible evidence of their esteem and respect, and their appreciation of the pleasant relations that had existed on all sides since his arrival in the Golden City more than a year ago. Mr. Vance accepted the splendid gift with characteristic brevity.

The ex-Le Roi shift boss goes to Ketchikan to take charge of a property now being operated by American capitalists. He is accompanied by George Erickson, a resident of Rossland for the past seven years, who will take a responsible post under Mr. Vance's direction.

The vacancy at the Le Roi has been filled by the temporary appointment of Pat Higgins.

The first shipment of coal from the mines of the International Coal and Coke company, at Blairmore, N. W. T., was made last week, when one carload of coal was shipped to Phoenix. The coal will be used for operating the steam shovel in the surface quarries of the Granby mines. Another carload of coal is en route to the Granby smelter. Although work at the coal mines is only at its initial stage, about twenty-five miners are employed and two carloads of coal being taken out daily in course of regular development. The International Coal and Coke company, with a capital stock of \$3,000,000, was recently organized by leading officials of the Granby company. Its president is A. C. Flumerfelt, of Victoria, B. C., the treasurer is H. N. Galer, assistant general manager of the Granby company, and the secretary is W. G. Graves, of Spokane. Coke ovens will be in operation late this coming fall.

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Mr. Race pressed for the immediate adoption of the foregoing sentiments. He maintained that it was for the good of the country and the party to have these principles adopted by both the government and the Conservative party. But the cloven hoof of corporate influence reaped out from time to time. A. H. McNeill argued strenuously for more time in which to consider the question. William Thompson wanted the matter shelved. President Goodeve spoke to the resolution, and, for the first time on record, exhibited some nervousness.

Hon. C. H. Mackintosh was not present, and will probably congratulate himself that he was not; for had he been there, he undoubtedly would have had to take a stand one way or the other.

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Laborers of all kinds are becoming very scarce in Kaslo as a result of the gold fever. Team after team of horses is idle, with lots of work to do, for want of drivers.

WHAT A MOTHER SAYS.

"It gives me great pleasure to say a good word for Baby's Own Tablets. At the age of two months my baby was dreadfully constipated. He could not digest his food and screamed incessantly. I was almost in despair, but since giving him the Tablets he has been well and is growing splendidly." Such is the testimony of Mrs. S. Craig, 223 Bathurst Street, Toronto, and thousands of other mothers speak in a similar strain.

Summer is here and mothers should take special pains to guard their little ones against illness. At this season infant mortality is at its greatest; colic, diarrhoea and summer complaints can be guarded against and prevented by the use of Baby's Own Tablets. Keep a box in the house—they may save your little one's life. Sold by druggists or may be had by mail at 25 cents a box by addressing The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

THE BEST INVESTMENT IN ROSSLAND—Advertise in the Rossland Miner. R 2472.

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Laborers of all kinds are becoming very scarce in Kaslo as a result of the gold fever. Team after team of horses is idle, with lots of work to do, for want of drivers.

WHAT A MOTHER SAYS.

"It gives me great pleasure to say a good word for Baby's Own Tablets. At the age of two months my baby was dreadfully constipated. He could not digest his food and screamed incessantly. I was almost in despair, but since giving him the Tablets he has been well and is growing splendidly." Such is the testimony of Mrs. S. Craig, 223 Bathurst Street, Toronto, and thousands of other mothers speak in a similar strain.

Summer is here and mothers should take special pains to guard their little ones against illness. At this season infant mortality is at its greatest; colic, diarrhoea and summer complaints can be guarded against and prevented by the use of Baby's Own Tablets. Keep a box in the house—they may save your little one's life. Sold by druggists or may be had by mail at 25 cents a box by addressing The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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