

Jubilant Ministers

Premier and Minister of Mines
Talk on the Rossland
Settlement.

Call It a Government Triumph—
The Premier to Go on
a Tour.

Undeterred by the result of the Vancouver convention, and perhaps roused by it to the necessity of vigorous action on his own part, he is to continue to administer the affairs of the province, Premier Joseph Martin will almost immediately commence a systematic stump of the constituencies. This was practically his reply this morning when asked by the Times what the effect of the convention would be on his future course. He stated unequivocally that he did not propose to be influenced in the least by the result of that gathering, and that, failing support from the press of the province, he proposed to take to the hustings himself and acquaint the people with his platform and policy.

Referring to the return of Hon. Smith Curtis from Rossland, the Premier said that the effect of amicably settling the matter and removing it from the realm of politics would immeasurably strengthen the government in the upper country. "You know," he explained, "how the government always profits by such a successful outcome to any difficulty, even when it is not responsible for the result. The effect will be much greater in this case, where it was brought about through the action of the administration, who paid the expenses of Mr. Smith, to whose assistance the Minister of Mines owes much in reaching a basis of settlement."

The Premier was questioned in regard to a statement in the Toronto World that his opposition to Messrs. Cox & Jeffrey was due to their refusal to join him in a scheme to build a railroad through southern British Columbia, connecting with the H. V. line, and thus sidetracking the C. P. R. "If any one believes that Messrs. Cox & Jeffrey are such patriots that they would not go into such a scheme simply because it would divert the trade to the United States," he said, "let them think so. I am not going to take any notice of a newspaper rumor. As soon as any of the gentlemen mentioned make such a statement over their own signature I will deal with it."

After an absence of several weeks from the city, during which he has been engaged in endeavoring to settle the differences in the mining country, Hon. Smith Curtis, Minister of Mines, last night returned to the city and to his duties. He is jubilant over the successful outcome of his trip, and all the more so as the initial stages of his efforts to effect a reconciliation between the miners and mine owners promised nothing but defeat. Speaking this morning of the result to a representative of the Times, Mr. Curtis said:

"I went up to Rossland three weeks ago and met the representatives of the mine owners, Mr. B. McDonald, representative of the B. A. C., and Mr. Ed. E. Kirby, manager of the Centre Star, and War Eagle. I also saw the representatives of the miners, and we entered into negotiations for the purpose of seeing what basis of settlement could be arrived at. A few days previous to my arrival the mine owners decided to adopt the contract system. Under this system about 35 per cent. of the men would do nothing, blasting, etc., by contract, while all the other employees would work by day labor. The Miners' Union objected to the inauguration of the contract system, on the grounds that it would induce competition that would likely greatly reduce wages in time. Of the other hand the mine owners assumed that they had no intention of reducing wages. I finally got from the mine owners a written assurance that any tenders coming in for work which, in the light of the records they had kept of the cost of similar work under the day labor system, would not give a good efficient man \$3.50 a day (the standard wage), would be refused. Also that all day labor men should be paid the standard wage heretofore prevailing, all work of course to be subject to the eight-hour law."

"The mine owners impressed me," continued Mr. Curtis, "as being desirous to reach a settlement, and to be quite fair to the men. There was more or less hostile feeling on both sides at first, but the swearing in of a large number of special constables, who were paid by the mine owners, had caused great annoyance to the men, who thought it was an attempt to intimidate them. But although an unwelcome action, I do not think the mine owners had any such object in view. Had they merely appointed watchmen over their properties when they shut down, there would have been no objection on the part of the men."

"The real difficulty," he added, "seems to be to get the representatives of both sides together, and by a frank discussion to bring about a friendly and trustful feeling. I became convinced that unless a settlement was immediately made nearly all the other large mines in 'Rossland' would shut down. I finally decided to send for Mr. Ralph Smith, Mr. P. P. of Nanaimo, and he very kindly came immediately and acted on behalf of the provincial government. Mr. R. C. Clute, Dominion labor commissioner, also came from Toronto, at the same time, and after their arrival I left matters almost entirely in their hands, having arranged, also for representatives of the mine owners and of the Miners' Union to meet and confer with them. I think it but fair to Mr. Smith to state that without his services I do not believe any settlement would have been arrived at. Mr. Clute also gave very great assistance, and especially credit is due to Mr. Jas. Devine, secretary of the Miners' Union, of Rossland, and Mr. Chris. Foley, a member of the executive of the same organization."

"The settlement effected was accepted by the Miners' Union by a very large majority, and if the mine owners keep their pledges with regard to wages, the settlement will be a permanent one, not

only in Rossland but through all the mining districts of the interior. "The tendency of the contract system will be to give to really efficient miners something more than the standard wage, and at the same time to weed out the inefficient and indolent, so that if it should be generally adopted the standard class of miners in the province will be steadily elevated."

"The plank of the government platform regarding the eight-hour law had a beneficial effect on both parties to this dispute. Neither party was very anxious to have the eight-hour law tested by a plebiscite. The miners especially did not view it with great favor. They had the law on the statutes and did not wish to put it in jeopardy. Knowing that a settlement of the Rossland dispute would render the plebiscite unnecessary, they did not feel inclined to refuse giving the contract system a reasonable trial."

"Work is now being resumed in three of the large properties which were shut down, and already the Le Roi has begun to ship ore to the smelter. It will be some time before the mines can be worked to their full capacity, but additional men will be added as fast as possible. Very large plants of new machinery are now being placed in the Centre Star and Le Roi, and these are in working order. The capabilities of the properties will not be fully established."

Nanaimo Politics.
A public meeting was held in South Wellington on Saturday evening for the purpose of nominating a candidate to represent the district of South Nanaimo, of which Ralph Smith is now a member. Four candidates were nominated, and the first ballot resulted as follows: William Beveridge, 14; James Dunsmuir, 13; R. Kilpatrick, 6; James Cairns, 4.

There were two spoiled ballots. When the result was announced Mr. Beveridge resigned in favor of Mr. Dunsmuir, and the nomination of the latter was made unanimous. There were fifty-nine voters at the meeting, nineteen of them refraining from voting.

Mr. Dunsmuir was not at the meeting, and has not yet signified his intention of accepting the nomination. Your correspondent is credibly informed that Ralph Smith will not be a candidate for South Nanaimo at the coming election. Owing to the demands made upon his time and his practice Dr. McKee will retire from politics, and Mr. Smith will be a candidate for Nanaimo city. His election in this district is assured, as no candidate strong enough to beat him could be brought forward by any party.

NOTES FROM NANAIMO.
(Special to the Times.)

Nanaimo, April 9.—The Nanaimo Rifle Association held its first meeting of the season on Saturday evening, when W. H. Wall was presented with the handsome trophy donated by George R. Raymond, which was won by the former last season. The club will begin practicing on Saturday next.

The Rugby Hornets held a meeting Saturday evening and wound up their affairs for the season. The Hornets played but three games during the season, one with Victoria and two with Vancouver. They suffered defeat in all three games.

A murderous attack was made on a boy ten years of age on Saturday evening. He was thrown to the floor and a blow was struck on the head, which he held in his hand, into the little fellow's skull. The injured boy will recover.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.
Mr. Justice Martin will preside at the spring assizes, which will commence here to-morrow in the law courts building, formerly the old postoffice. The list is a very light one, there being only three cases: Regina v. Knox, assault; Regina v. Sarel, criminal libel; and Regina v. Nicol, also criminal libel. This last case was tried a long time ago, and the jury disagreed. It is in reference to the well-known Province article in reference to Messrs. Pooley and Turner, who were at the time members of the government.

THE KENNEL.
The dog fanciers of Victoria, whose canines were entered in the bench show of the Tacoma Kennel Club have every reason to feel complimented in consideration of the way in which their dogs distinguished themselves. In spite of the fact that the pride of the Northwestern kennels, as well as imported crabs, were competing, laurels fell in undivided array to the Victorian dogs. The various canines will be entered in the Seattle circuit show, which commences tomorrow. The winners in the Tacoma show were as follows:

Collies, other than tri-color, open, dogs—1st, Capital, T. R. MacGill; 2nd, Sport, P. Turner. Irish terriers, novice, dogs—1st, Saanich, Sportman, open, bitch—1st, Saanich, Doreen, novice, bitch—1st, Saanich, Dahlia, all owned by Mrs. Bradley-Dyke-Sidney. Pointers, open, dogs, under 55 pounds—3rd, Tick Sport, P. Turner. English setters, open, dogs—3rd, Earl Dudley, Thomas Plimley, open, bitch—2nd, Princess Alice, P. Turner. Irish setters, open, dogs—1st, Hector, Dr. Gurech, open, bitch—3rd, Macap, Dr. John Duncan, puppy, bitch—2nd, Highland Gem, Thomas Plimley. Gordon setters, open, dogs—1st, Bang, Oscar G. Ross. Cocker, spaniels, winners, dogs—1st, Queen of Shells, J. W. Greighton, open, bitch—1st, Blossie, Royal Pastime Kennels, Danes, & Litchfield. Red dogs—1st, Banner Jake, Royal Pastime Kennels, Danes, & Litchfield. Grey dogs—1st, Spot, G. Goodwin, 2nd, General Dewey, J. W. Greighton.

Will positively cure sick headache and prevent its return. Carter's Little Liver Pills. This is not talk, but truth. One pill small dose. Small price.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The only safe and reliable medicine for infants and children. It is a small dose. Small price.

who is now on his vacation, has been secured a lucrative post of a station being Miss M. Williams, who has \$5,000 per annum, and will take up his residence there. This has necessitated his resignation of his position with the local court, which he has held for some years. There are a number of applications for the position, but the Attorney-General stated this morning that no appointment had yet been made. Among those applying for the position, which is a very desirable one, are Louis J. Seymour, and Messrs. Jones and Warden, of local stenographic circles.

Local News.

(From Friday's Daily.)

—Major Benson, D. O. C., and Captain Gaudin, representing the department of marine and fisheries, are in almost daily conference in regard to the quarantining of the B. C. company in the Marine hospital. Arrangements will be made for the patients to be cared for either at one of the hospitals or in a private house. Major Benson is asking in another column for tenders for supplies for the company which will be received by him up to 12 o'clock noon on April 14th for meat, bread, groceries, coal, wood, oil, washing, scrubbing and sweeping chimneys. Forms for tendering may be obtained at the drill hall between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily.

—Two cars of the Tramway Company came to grief on the Esquimalt division about 5 o'clock last night. The regular car was proceeding to the naval village, closely followed by a car which is dispatched every evening to bring up the workmen employed in the naval yard. The latter was in charge of two of the extra men whose residences in the room is somewhat limited. When the first car reached the railroad crossing it stopped as provided for in the regulations, the conductor being obliged to examine the crossing before allowing his car across. Conductor Peters was in the act of doing so, when the workmen's car came up and pitched into the rear of the first one. The driver became rattled, and reversed it, when the car began backing. To prevent it doing so he again, evidently turned on the power, and the car again rammed the front one. Both were badly shattered at the ends which came in contact, and had to be ordered back to the sheds for repairs by Road Superintendent Gibson, who happened to be on board.

—The Board of Missions for the Baptist church in this province concluded its labors in Calvary Baptist church yesterday, there being present Revs. Hinson, McEwen, Vichert, Hastings, Vansickle, and Coombes, and Messrs. Spofford, Grant, and Messrs. Morgan, McNeill, Marchant, Sluggitt, and McMillan. A considerable amount of business of a routine nature was transacted, the reports of the delegates to the Rossland conference being received and considered, and the matter of Japanese missions discussed. Much to the regret of the board, Rev. J. E. Coombes tendered his resignation as Superintendent of Missions, he having received a number of invitations to resume pastoral work and having finally decided to do so. The annual honorarium was voted, and a resolution expressing the regret of the board at losing his services as superintendent, and expressing their confidence in, and regard for, him, was passed unanimously. His resignation takes effect on the 30th of April. The board appointed Rev. P. H. Westman, of Nanaimo, as acting superintendent, and the corresponding secretary and acting superintendent in the meantime, these duties being undertaken in addition to his pastoral work.

—The Oddfellows of the city, consisting of four lodges and the encampment, are instituting arrangements for the annual Grand Lodge meeting, which takes place in Victoria in June. A joint committee of fifteen has been appointed to arrange for the reception of the visiting delegates.

—A handsome folder has been issued by the White Pass & Yukon railway, which not only gives valuable information regarding the northern goldfields and the ways of getting to them, but also has good maps. The folders are being run daily from Skagway to Bennett, and the announcement is made that on the opening of navigation the railway will be completed and in operation on the new extension to White Horse, an extension 117 miles long.

—Preparations are being made in the Victoria Army circles in this city for the reception of Commissioner Eva Boffé, who will visit Victoria on Wednesday week. This is not the commissioner's first visit to this city, and her numerous admirers will be pleased to extend an enthusiastic welcome to her. The train, on her arrival. The jurisdiction of the commissioner embraces the entire Dominion, as well as a great portion of the United States. She is the fourth daughter of the general, and one of the most eloquent speakers in the rank and file of the army. She will address a meeting at the A. O. U. Hall, which will no doubt be crowded to the doors.

—The Jubilee hospital executive committee held a special meeting yesterday afternoon, when the following committee was appointed to consider the matter of making plans for the construction of a new hospital: "I am directed to transfer the Marine hospital at this point to the militia department and to make arrangements for the care of sick men during the occupation of the premises by the militia. I have the honor to request information as to whether the authorities of the Royal Jubilee hospital will receive sick men and the terms on which they would be admitted. There are at present twenty patients under treatment, and the committee is desirous of securing some information as to the time required in the desired arrangements and the question will be fully discussed at a meeting of the hospital directors on the 12th inst."

—Oscar Hartnagel, of this place, was among the students of the Ontario Veterinary College who took high standing at the recent examinations. He secured honors in materia medica, and is expected to receive his diploma.

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—The death occurred in London on December 30th of Walter Edwards, W. D. Barker, conducted the early sixties, returning to England in 1887. Death resulted from an attack of pneumonia. He leaves a widow, two daughters and one son.

—The funeral of the late George Stewart took place yesterday from the family residence, Langford street, Victoria West. There was a large attendance and many beautiful floral emblems. Rev. W. D. Barker conducted the services and the following gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Messrs. T. C. Page, A. Lownds, C. Mitchell, T. W. Brown, F. G. Rae and G. B. Harrison.

—The Great Northern railway are now giving reduced rates to commercial travellers going into the Kootenays. The commercial men are given tickets for about three dollars less than the ordinary traveller. The commercial fare to Victoria, \$21.35 to Kootenay, \$20.95 to Alton, \$19.85 to Nelson and \$19.00 to Rossland. Three hundred pounds of baggage (samples) will be checked free on tickets sold under these arrangements.

—Lieut. Scott, of H.M.S. Pheasant, who was shot by a sentry on Friday, still lies in a critical condition at the Naval Hospital. His condition remains unchanged, although his friends are hopeful that his strong and wiry constitution will enable him to survive his wounds. In connection with the matter, Special Watchman Nunn wishes the Times to deny the statement in the Colonist to the effect that in a collision with Lieut. Burns, of the navy, the latter drew his sword on him. He states that this is entirely incorrect, and that Lieut. Burns was not a naval but a military officer. Mr. Nunn further stated that he has served twenty-one years and never knew a station where there was greater harmony between the two branches of the service than here.

—The Cowichan Roman Catholic church at Qualicum was totally destroyed by fire last Saturday evening. It is thought that Friday's storm caused a break in the chimney between the ceiling and the roof, and that from this the fire originated. Only a few articles from the vestry were saved. The loss was about \$4,000, and there was no insurance. The building was a large one, with a seating capacity of four hundred, and prettily decorated in the interior. The building was enlarged this winter at a cost of \$1,100. Great grief was felt among the Cowichan Indians, as in addition to this calamity, Rev. Father Roudelet, the Cowichan pioneer, who has been rector of the church and mission for forty-two years, is dying at St. Joseph's Hospital in this city.

—The return of the torpedo boat destroyer Virago on Saturday has contributed no gleam of information which could act as a clue for the authorities to elucidate the mystery surrounding the disappearance of the Assistant Paymaster Thomas B. Clarke, of H.M.S. Leader. The systematic search of the steamer Alpha just before her departure for the North from Vancouver was quite fruitless, but in spite of this there appeared to be a lingering doubt as to whether or no the missing man had been overlooked while the Alpha was being searched, and the steamer was overhauled and again inspected by the destroyer, but as unsuccessfully as on the previous occasion. The case is one that appears to baffle everybody, and in order to disprove the theory that he had accidentally fallen into the waters of Esquimalt harbor through near-sightedness, the harbor was dragged on Saturday with no results. It is not improbable that the theory that Clarke has contrived, through some means or other, to leave for the North, is correct.

General stated this morning that no appointment had yet been made. Among those applying for the position, which is a very desirable one, are Louis J. Seymour, and Messrs. Jones and Warden, of local stenographic circles.

—Yesterday being Palm Sunday was observed in the Roman Catholic church, on December 30th. The service was conducted by Rev. Father Althoff, assisted by Rev. Father Latimer. On Thursday, Good Friday and Saturday services will be conducted in the R. C. cathedral at 8 a.m.

—It is pretty well settled that the episcopal vacancy made by the departure of Archbishop Christie for Oregon will be filled by Rev. Father Bertrand Orth, pastor of St. Lawrence's church, Portland, Ore. The most recent announcement of this fact is contained in a late issue of the Catholic News.

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