The People Choked Off

Interesting Quarrel the Upshot of Ambitious Meeting At Westminister.

Semlin-Cotton Supporters Side-track All But Anti-Martin Resolution.

Premier Present and Has Words With Speaker Forster and Ralph Smith.

The Vancouver News-Advertiser in its report of the "People's Emergency Convention" held at New Westminster in response to a call issued by the Columbian of that city, notes that Hon. Joseph Martin was one of those who registered as a delegate from Vancouver, and proceeds with a four column report in condensed form as follows:

Mr. J. M. Kellie, M.P.P., asked from the rear of the hall if this was a Joe Martin convention, or opposed to him. (Laughter.) If it was, he proposed taking his departure; if not he would stay and do what he could to help.

Mr. Kennedy said that he was representing the publishers of the Columbian, and again went over the ground of how they were meeting with the effort of reviving the old People's Party. The Columbian was "opposed to Martin and any others—and party lines."

Mr. Kellie said he would assume the responsibility of representing the district from which he came. He wanted to know if Kootenay, Cariboo and the other Interior districts were being represented. "I notice Mr. Martin here," concluded Mr. Kellie; "is he opposed to himself?" (Laughter.)

Mr. Martin was on his feet in a moment. "Is there anything in the call of this meeting," said he, "that states that it is opposed to me?"

There were various answers from the floor of the house, but none came from the chair.

As the enrolment of other names proceeded, Mr. Munro, M.P.P., of Chilliwack, and many others said that they would not attempt to represent the districts they hailed from.

Mr. Kennedy said that it had in the first place been considered that only private members of the house should be present, and now it was found that Mr. Martin was present. That gentleman said that he had been invited by his friend. Seeing that Mr. Martin was here, it was only fair for late cabinet ministers to be present. He therefore had sent invitations to Mr. Alexander Henderson and Mr. F. C. Cotton. He would move, to obtain the sense of the meeting, that none of these gentlemen should be allowed to address the meeting, but allowed to be present.

After a short discussion, this motion was withdrawn. It was decided on a kind of general suggestion that everyone on the roll should be allowed the privileges of the floor.

Mr. Kennedy moved a half-column resolution to the following effect:

Whereas an extraordinary and most serious political crisis has been precipitated in this province, by the defeat of the Semlin government and the calling in by the Lieutenant-Governor of Mr. Joseph Martin to form a ministry.

And whereas the people of British Columbia have reason to view with alarm the possibility of Mr. Martin succeeding in forming a government and being confirmed in power at the polls.

And whereas it is the opinion of this convention that the threatened drawing of Dominion party lines in our provincial politics is most undesirable.

And whereas the late government party has been prejudiced and discredited, in a measure, by the failure to secure to the country an equitable measure of redistribution; and further, by the apparent anxiety of its leaders to hold on to power, after a decisive defeat on its policy, by accepting the proffered support of certain of its opponents.

And whereas this leads to the fair presumption that, if the late government party, as at present constituted, were returned to power, it would form a neutral and practically principleless coalition with such of the Turner party as might be returned, simply for the sake of holding power against Mr. Martin.

Therefore, be it resolved, that it is the opinion of this convention that the true interests of the province—of the people of the province as a whole—demand that the late government party (the old People's Party) should be reorganized and strengthened by the people, and its platform brought up to date, so as to enable it to appear to the country with a reasonable assurance of success.

Mr. W. McCraney seconded the resolution. He said he did that purely for the purposes of discussion.

Mr. Woodward moved to strike out the paragraph viewing with alarm the possibility of Mr. Martin's success. This was seconded by Mr. T. S. Baxter.

Mr. Ralph Smith, M.P.P., asked: "Is it true or is it not that the Liberals of Vancouver last Saturday night elected Mr. Martin as the leader of the Liberal party?"

Mr. Woodward read the resolution already published.

Mr. W. McCraney said he could not allow the statement that had been made to go unchallenged. A large percentage of the Liberal party in Vancouver could not be drawn to that meeting of about 40 voters. The passing of such a resolution by such a meeting was foolishness. (Applause.)

Mr. G. W. Grant explained that the action did not bind the whole association, but the executive.

Mr. McCraney alleged that Mr. Woodward had tried to introduce party lines. A hot scene occurred between the two gentlemen.

Mr. Martin said he knew well he was speaking to a hostile audience. (Hear, hear.) But he believed there was no difference between the policy of the convention and his own. He thought some reason should be put forward for the alarm, etc. Everyone would agree that the session of 1899 was perfectly satisfactory to the people. At the end of the session of the house he had received the hearty congratulations of the members of the house that he had done the burden of the work of the session, which fell on him, very well. He wanted them to judge his record. He would get a very large support in the province in any event. The people's party did not include everyone in the province. That party could not afford to divide its forces. If they passed this resolution they would be joining the great combination formed to down Martin. This was without any reason. He thought they proposed taking the serious action of joining the Wilson or Turner party, or whatever it was. Not a single thing was done by his department in New Westminster without the decision of the government behind him. The government appointed for office the men that were recommended by Mr. Henderson. It was found afterwards that these had been strong antagonists of Mr. J. C. Brown, who was defeated.

Mr. J. M. Kellie was the next speaker. He said he had yet to know that Mr. Martin had a principle. He was prepared to say that Mr. Martin could not carry a single constituency in West Kootenay. If the Vancouver member had stood true to his principles the government would have passed the redistribution bill. Mr. Martin, he contended, had been a betrayer and traitor on the redistribution bill. He had wrecked the Semlin government.

Mr. Martin—They did it themselves.

Mr. Martin interrupted the next statement of Mr. Kellie and stated that he opposed the Semlin government for giving away millions of dollars' worth of coal lands, when it had strong opinions to the contrary.

Mr. Kellie contended that it was the Turner government that did it. Mr. Martin was not worthy of support. He would say if Mr. Martin was the leader of the Liberal party, then God help the Liberal party. (Laughter.) The people of the country knew how to judge Mr. Martin on his record. (Applause.)

Mr. Thomas Forster, M. P. P., said he wished to remind Mr. Martin that there were many Liberals in Vancouver who did not support him. Mr. Martin begged those present, if they did not support him, to elect the Turner party. That was a nice principle, wasn't it! Mr. Martin had devoted his time to ruining his political opponents. As a friend recently from Manitoba said, "he belongs to the Raise H—l party." (Laughter.) There was a never worse "mussed up" bill than the License Act. They had to spend a long time in fixing it up this session. It was all Joe Martin; it was Martin first, last and all the time.

Mr. Martin interrupted several times and Mr. Forster commanded him to sit down. "I did not," Mr. Martin would call out at the top of his voice, in answer to Mr. Forster. It took the chairman several moments to restore order in each instance. Mr. Forster said that he believed that when the dispute over the Deadman's island question came up, Mr. Cotton was right, and, at other times Mr. Semlin was right.

Mr. Munro, M. P. P., was the next speaker. "What was Mr. Martin elected for?" he asked.

Mr. Martin—To carry out certain principles.

Mr. Munro—Then he should never go back on those principles, just because he was turned down by the party. (Applause.) No intelligent man could be justified in saying that there was any fighting chance, from the advice to the province, of the country keeping the coal lands referred to. Mr. Martin's friends had found fault with his actions. He thought that Mr. Martin was eminently qualified to bring chaos out of order.

Mr. J. Coote, of Vancouver, and Mr. T. F. Paterson, of Port Moody, were speakers in the further discussion.

Mr. Ralph Smith, M. P. P., next came forward. He had been one of the men who considered in 1898 that Mr. Martin would be a great agent of benefit to the province. He changed his mind about September, 1899. He found that Mr. Martin was influenced by personal feelings against others to work disadvantage to the people's party. He would give two reasons. He considered that if Mr. Martin had been prepared to carry out the broad principles he said he did, he should never have allied himself with the Turner party to defeat the redistribution bill. (Cheers.) The next was the relief that was sought to be given to the coal miners of Vancouver island. If he stood for anything in the old party, he stood for the benefit of the coal miners of Vancouver island. What did Mr. Martin do? He combined with the corporation of the Dunsmuirs to defeat a measure to relieve the condition of things for the coal miners. (Applause.)

Mr. Martin—The Coal Mines bill was most outrageous. He interrupted again with the contention that he did not have a chance to reply to these statements. There was a long wrangle on the point of order. There were many calls for question, but Mr. Martin was given five minutes in which to reply.

Mr. Henderson and Mr. Martin had a hot dispute on a question of what happened in the house. Mr. Martin alleged that Mr. Henderson had, by his statement in the house, released him from his promise in connection with the redistribution bill. He called the Nanaimo clauses in the bill a gerrymander of this bill. Mr. Cotton and Mr. Semlin did not want the bill, he was informed; it was forced upon them by Mr. Kellie. Mr. Kidd and others.

When Mr. Henderson came forward to speak it was nearly 7 o'clock, and the Vancouver delegation prepared to withdraw. After Mr. Henderson had addressed the meeting for a few minutes, explaining the stand that had been taken by Mr. Martin in connection with the Coal Mines Regulation Act, Mr. Kellie also made some explanatory statements.

In response to many calls for the question, the chairman finally put it to the meeting and the paragraph in question was adopted unanimously. There were no nays recorded, the followers of Mr. Martin having left by the car for Vancouver.

At 8:30 o'clock the second session was convened. None of the delegates who were present in the afternoon from Vancouver were at this session. After about an hour's discussion the section regarding party lines was carried, the negatives being few.

The remainder of the preamble, which included four paragraphs, was withdrawn. Then the resolution itself was taken up. After some discussion it was slightly amended, the general purport of the resolution as finally passed being that the late government party should be strengthened, re-organized and supported throughout the coming campaign.

The convention broke up shortly after 12 o'clock.

ENDED IN A ROW.

Supporters of the Semlin Government Resent Proposed Censure of Parties in Legislature.

Supplementing the News-Advertiser's report condensed above the Colonist's correspondent sends the following additional information, explaining the dropping of the greater part of Mr. Kennedy's carefully prepared resolution:

"After the party lines paragraph had been adopted, the rest of the resolution, involving censure of the Semlin government, brought to their feet several supporters of that party in the legislature. These included Messrs. Forster, Alex. Henderson, Ralph Smith, Kidd, Munro, Deane and Kellie. Occupying the time until 12 o'clock these gentlemen practically shut off debate, and prevented the people being heard. They went into long-winded, plausibly arranged arguments to excuse themselves from the sins of commission and omission, in regard to the one direct charge made by Mr. Kennedy, that they were sent to Victoria by the people's party (Mainland) to pass a redistribution bill and did not do it. They answered that passing a redistribution bill meant going to the people, and as there was much important business to be done, they had delayed it until desertions from their ranks caused their defeat.

"As it was approaching midnight and Mr. Kellie was taking up the time of the meeting by explaining how he had coaxed Mr. Kidd to drop party and vote with Martin and himself on redistribution for the good of the country. Mr. Kennedy sprang to his feet and accused the members of the Semlin party present of defeating his resolution by intimidating the people, and as some resolution must be passed he would withdraw the four last paragraphs of his resolution and put the following to the meeting:

"'Resolved that owing to certain circumstances and because no redistribution of representation has been passed the people's party must be re-organised and strengthened, and that a convention be called at Kamloops, and that Mr. Carter-Cotton and his committee be asked to co-operate.' This was carried and a committee was appointed to make preliminary arrangements.

"The convention was run in a most slip-shod way by J. C. Brown and Geo. Kennedy, who engineered it. Mr. Kennedy was the mover of some ten resolutions, half of which were not even seconded. There was too much Kennedy on the one side and too much Kidd, Deane, Henderson and Kellie on the other.

"In fact the meeting was captured by the late government's supporters and although the calling of the convention was nominally assented to, several of those appointed on the committee said afterwards that it never would be called."

KAMLOOPS CONSERVATIVES.

Nominate Candidate to Oppose Mr. Deane at the Coming Provincial Election.

Kamloops, March 10.—A Conservative convention was held to-day to nominate candidates for the approaching provincial election. George B. Martin, C. Wentworth Sarel, J. T. Edwards, James Ross and F. J. Fulton were nominated, and all the others withdrew in favor of Mr. Fulton. The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

"That in the face of the present condition of affairs in this district and the province generally, namely the closing of all the dividend-paying mines, resulting in widespread distress throughout the interior, disorganization of business and discredit of the province throughout the money markets of the world, this state of affairs being due to the mismanagement of the late Semlin administration.

"Also that this convention has no confidence in the present member for North Yale, who has obtained none of the much-needed requirements of this district, and has supported hasty and ill-advised legislation, which has seriously injured our province:

"Therefore this convention pledges itself to lend its support to a candidate who will devote all his energies to the benefit of this district especially, and to such legislation as will restore confidence in the resources of the province, and that we, the duly appointed delegates in convention here assembled, have the fullest confidence in the candidate selected and are of opinion that it is inexpedient at the present time to hamper him with conditions as to his candidature, but pledge ourselves to use our utmost endeavors for his election."

There are many forms of nervous debility in men that yield to the use of Carter's Iron Pills. Those who are troubled with nervous weakness, night sweats, etc., should try them.

BISHOP OF VANCOUVER.

Reported That Rev. Father Orth of Portland Will Succeed Bishop Christie.

Eastern and Portland papers report that Rev. Father Orth of Portland has been appointed Roman Catholic archbishop of Vancouver Island in succession to Bishop Christie, promoted to the archbishopric of Oregon. No official notification of the appointment has, however, been received. The Portland Oregonian says:

"Eastern Catholic papers announce the appointment of Rev. B. Orth, of St. Laurence's church, of this city, as Bishop of Victoria, which includes a vast amount of territory in British Columbia. The place was formerly held by Bishop Christie, now of this diocese. Father Orth knew nothing about the matter until shown the papers, and he is inclined to believe it to be a practical joke of some of his brother priests. The fact would be no surprise, however, to those who know him, for he is among the foremost and best known of the Catholic clergy west of the Mississippi river.

"Father Orth is well deserving of the place, having officially served the church in this state for nearly thirty years. He is a native of Germany, having been born in Rhine province, Prussia, fifty years ago. He was ordained as priest in Brussels, Belgium, in the year 1872, and came immediately to Oregon. During the next five years he worked hard in the eastern part of the state, and then came to Portland, where he has been stationed ever since. Sixteen years ago he built St. Laurence's church, on Third and Sherman streets, which was shortly followed by the erection of his beautiful residence on Sherman street, joining the church.

"Father Orth was very reticent in speaking about his labors here. However, he played a very prominent part during his 22 years' service in this city. Together with Father Fierens he built the old cathedral on Third and Stark streets, and during the erection of the new St. Vincent's hospital he took an important part in the labors. Father Orth was also chairman of the building committee of the archiepiscopal residence. During the reconstruction of the Catholic Sentinel he was editor of the paper, and afterwards served in that capacity for many years. A steady string of people was constantly calling on him yesterday to offer their congratulations."

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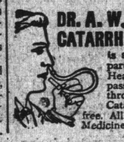

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Mr. Martin To Electors

Platform on Which He Will Appeal to People of the Province.

Mr. Turner on the Government Ownership of Railways—Cowichan Candidate.

(From Sunday's Daily Colonist.)

Premier Martin yesterday issued his address to the electors. It contained no surprises, with the possible exception of his proposal to refer the eight-hour law to the vote of the people, being very much on the lines he laid down in an interview he gave the Colonist when first called upon to form a government. The address follows:

THE PLATFORM.

In appealing to you as the Premier of the province, I beg to lay before you the platform of the new government as follows:

1. The abolition of the $200 deposit for candidates for the legislature.

2. The bringing into force, as soon as arrangements can be completed, of the Torrens Registry system.

3. The redistribution of the constituencies on the basis of population, allowing to sparsely populated districts a proportionately larger representation than to populous districts and cities.

4. The enactment of an accurate system of government scaling of logs, and its rigid enforcement.

5. The re-enactment of the disallowed Labor Regulation Act, 1898, and also all the statutes of 1899, containing anti-Mongolian clauses if disallowed as proposed by the Dominion government.

6. To take a firm stand in every other possible way with a view of discouraging the spread of Oriental cheap labor in this province.

7. To provide for official inspection of all buildings, machinery and works with a view to compelling the adoption of proper safeguards to life and health.

8. With regard to the eight-hour law the government will continue to enforce the law as it stands. An immediate inquiry will be made by the Minister of Mines into all grievances put forward in connection with its operation, with a view of bringing about an amicable settlement. If no settlement is reached the principle of the referendum will be applied and a vote taken at the general election as to whether the law shall be repealed. If the law is sustained by the vote it will be retained upon the statute book with its penalty clause. If modifications can be made removing any of the friction brought about, without impairing the principle of the law, they will be adopted. If the vote is against it the law will be repealed.

9. To re-establish the London agency of British Columbia, and to take every effective means of bringing before the British public the advantages of this province as a place for the profitable investment of capital.

10. The retaining of the resources of the province as an asset for the benefit of the people, and taking effective measures to prevent the alienation of the public domain, except to actual settlers or for actual bona fide business, or industrial purposes, putting an end to the practice of speculating in connection with the same.

11. The taking of active measures for the systematic exploration of the province.

12. The borrowing of money for the purpose of providing roads, trails and bridges, provided that in every case the money necessary to pay the interest and sinking fund in connection with the loan shall be provided by the additional taxation so as not to impair the credit of the province.

13. In connection with the construction of government roads and trails, to provide by the employment of competent civil engineers and otherwise that the government money is expended upon some system which will be advantageous to the general public, so that the old system of providing roads as a special favor to supporters of the government may be entirely discontinued.

14. To keep the ordinary annual expenditure within the ordinary annual revenue, in order to preserve intact the credit of the province, which is its best asset.

15. To adopt a system of government construction and operation of railways, and immediately to proceed with the construction of a railway on the south side of the Fraser river, connection the Coast with the Kootenay district, with the understanding that unless the other railways now constructed in the province give fair connections, and make equitable joint freight and passenger arrangements, the province will continue this line to the eastern boundary of the province. Proper connection with such Kootenay railway to be given to the Island of Vancouver. With respect to other parts of the province, to proceed to give to every portion of it railway connection at as early a date as possible, the railway when constructed to be operated by the government through a commission.

16. A railway bridge to be constructed in connection with the Kootenay railway across the Fraser river, at or near New Westminster, and running powers given over it to any railway company applying for the same, under proper conditions.

17. In case it is thought at any time advisable to give a bonus to any railway company, the same to be in cash, and not by way of a land grant; and no such bonus to be granted except upon the condition that a fair amount of bonds or shares of the company be transferred to the province, and effective means taken to give the province control of the freight and passenger rates, and provision made against such railway having any liabilities against it except actual cost.

18. To take away from the lieutenant-governor-in-council any power to make substantive changes in the law, confining the jurisdiction entirely to matters of detail in working out the laws enacted by the legislature.

19. The establishment of an institution within the province for the education of the deaf and dumb.

20. To repeal the Alien Exclusion Act, as the reasons justifying its enactment no longer obtain.

21. An amicable settlement of the dispute with the Dominion government as to Deadman's island, Stanley park and other lands, and an arrangement with Mr. Ludgte, by which, if possible, a sawmill industry may be established and carried on on Deadman's island, under satisfactory conditions, protecting the interests of the public.

22. Proper means of giving technical instruction to miners and prospectors.

ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY.

In connection with recent events, some criticism has been directed against His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. It is my duty to take the responsibility for His Honor's action, and I have not the slightest hesitancy in so doing.

The legislative assembly deliberately voted want of confidence in Mr. Semlin's government. There were only two courses open to Mr. Semlin: either to ask for a dissolution or resign. He adopted neither, but asked for delay, and took up the time granted to him in endeavoring to enter into most vicious and dishonorable arrangements with the members of the house who had been elected to oppose him until the defeat was brought about, and whose principles were directly opposed to his.

No precedent exists in connection with the working of British representative institutions where in a case of that kind, a ministry has been allowed to hold power by means of votes thus obtained; and when Mr. Semlin announced to His Honor that he would not be able to obtain a vote of confidence from the house, the only course open to His Honor was that adopted by him, of dismissing his advisers.

In addition to the above it appears from His Honor's letter of dismissal that there were ample reasons for that course, entirely apart from the vote of want of confidence in the house.

I have the honor to be, gentelmen, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH MARTIN.

In conversation with a Colonist reporter yesterday, Hon. Smith Curtis, Minister of Mines, said the statements that Mr. Martin was unable to fill his cabinet were incorrect. He could do so at once, and with able men; but he was desirous of proceeding cautiously, with the object of forming a strong government, representative of all portions of the province. Mr. Curtis further vouchsafed the information that a part of the policy of the new government would be the opening up of the resources of Vancouver island.

In connection with the clause in Mr. Martin's platform adopting the principal of the government ownership of railways, ex-Premier Turner made an interesting statement bearing on that phase of the situation at the Liberal-Conservative meeting in Pioneer hall on Thursday evening. Mr. Turner stated that when in London on the occasion of the floating of the last loan raised by his government, he was required to write a number of letters to financial firms, assuring them that there was no disposition among the people of British Columbia to go in for government ownership of railways. Representatives of the financial firms argued that the principle of the government ownership of railways might work very well in Canada as a whole, but would prove unworkable in a province like British Columbia—for these reasons: If Canada adopted the system and constructed roads, and the said roads were required to be run at a loss, the additional taxation required for raising the money could very well be obtained by the imposition of additional duties on articles of luxury, and the burden would not bear very heavily upon the general taxpayer; but this would not be the case if a province like British Columbia were to construct railways under provincial ownership. In the latter case, if the roads did not pay, the money required for their operation it could not be obtained by the imposition of duties—it would have to come from the usual sources of revenue; and these are not large. So it will be seen that the burden would be too great a one for a small province like British Columbia—as far as population is concerned—to assume. At least this is the opinion of London financiers.

A petition is being circulated in Cowichan asking Mr. C. C. Dickie to be a candidate in that district.

Letters to The Editor

A BUSINESS MAN'S APPEAL.

Sir: As one who is interested more or less in the welfare of our province, I would like to make a few remarks on the present political quandary.

Few people have any idea of the loss that is being sustained, due entirely to the lack of responsible government. The business men throughout the province should take this matter in hand and give the politicians to understand that we elect them to look after our interests, not their own. We want men to represent us who consider personal interest as a secondary matter—the welfare of the people first. WE DON'T WANT MARTIN; WE DON'T WANT CONSERVATIVES; WE DON'T WANT LIBERALS. WE WANT GOOD MEN, REGARDLESS OF PARTY—MEN WITH BRAINS ENOUGH TO GRASP THE SITUATION, AND A POLICY THAT WE CAN SUPPORT. We want men who have a thorough knowledge of the province and its enormous resources—men who will encourage railroad building both on the Mainland and Island, with wagon roads leading to our mining camps where railroads are not practicable at present; men who will encourage the immigration of white settlers; protect capital, thus giving employment to the workingmen; do work where it is most needed, regardless of votes; pay good salaries to capable men, and get rid of all pensioners; employ no man who fails to pay his honest debts. We want an up-to-date government that will develop the resources of the richest province of the Dominion, and in so doing operate from the Coast, so that British Columbians may get the benefit. In the meantime let us act; let us demand an election at once. The country is suffering for want of legislation; capital is being withdrawn, and unless we can find a remedy, look out for a panic.

MERCHANT.

GOVERNMENT BY "SPECIAL WARRANT."

Sir: In previous letters I have endeavored to show that delay in calling on the elections under the policy as put forth by Mr. Martin, if adopted by His Honor, will mean the stoppage of many industrial enterprises, if it does not involve the country in serious financial difficulty; because under the most favorable conditions a general election, if held with voters' lists revised in May, will postpone the meeting of the legislature until September. In further support of my position I yesterday produced the solemn pledge given by His Honor at the recent prorogation, that "another session" would be held in June—that it was in fact necessary that a session should be held in the interests of the province before the close of the fiscal year which ends on June 30. I think that the Lieutenant-Governor and the Premier may be left to solve this problem each in his own way, and reconcile, if they can, the declaration contained in the prorogation speech with the more recently expressed intention of the Premier to defer the elections until a date that will render a session in June impossible. I am more concerned just now with the ominous threat of the Premier to govern the country by means of "special warrants." A "special warrant" is an authority from the lieutenant-governor to expend certain sums of money upon certain objects of a public nature, for which expenditure authority has not previously been obtained from the legislature. These warrants are prepared by the executive and laid before His Honor for approval or disapproval. If His Honor is satisfied that the sums asked are absolutely necessary in the public interest, that the necessities for which the money is required are of a nature that could not have been foreseen while the house was in session, and if, beyond and above every other consideration, His Honor is of the opinion that upon the re-assembling of the legislature that body will approve of the special expenditure under the warrants, he usually gives the authorization. But it frequently happens that a lieutenant-governor, like the youth who went to the Circumlocution Office and "wanted to know, you know," is of an inquiring turn of mind, and declines to accept the statements of his advisers with respect to the proposed expenditure, and the confidence reposed in them by the legislature. In the case of Mr. Turner's application for a special warrant in 1898, the Lieutenant-Governor refused point blank to accept the statements of the then Premier that he "had the support of the majority of the members elected to serve in the legislature." He declined peremptorily to approve of appointments or confirm special warrants made and issued by Mr. Turner's government. Claiming that the government had not been "endorsed by the electorate," and had "not the confidence of the legislative assembly," His Honor on the 14th July, 1898, peremptorily dismissed the cabinet and called on Mr. Beaven and finally on Mr. Semlin to form a government. Here we have His Honor laying down the principle, clearly and distinctly, that a government which does not possess the confidence of the legislature must make room for others. There is no room for doubt. The despatch is as clear as the sun on a bright afternoon, and I have never yet had occasion to doubt the correctness of His Honor's position on that score. Events subsequently showed that Mr. Turner had 17 supporters in the new house.

After the exit of Mr. Turner, Mr. Semlin appeared on the scene, and his ministry seems to have retained the confidence of His Honor until about the last day of August, 1899, when Mr. McInnes wrote Mr. Semlin to say that his ministry was one short and that a "grave doubt now exists as to whether your administration retains the confidence of the legislative assembly," and insisting that he must "either meet the legislative assembly on or before the 1st day of October next, * * * or a general election be held on or before the said date." The insistence of the Lieutenant-Governor met with no response, and on the 18th of October His Honor was asked to sign three "special warrants" amounting in the aggregate to $35,000. Still believing that the ministry had forfeited the good opinion of the legislature, His Honor refused to extend the necessary authority, and the warrants lapsed. From that date to the final catastrophe on the 23rd of February, when the house by a majority of one voted no confidence in the ministry, the position of neither the Governor nor his executive would seem to have been a pleasant one. To judge from the despatches the quarrel is a very pretty quarrel as it stands; I should only spoil it by trying to explain it, so I shall confine my criticism strictly to the question of the Lieutenant-Governor to issue the special warrants on the ground that the ministry had lost the confidence of the house (an opinion afterwards sustained by the vote of non-confidence), and to the complaint that Mr. Semlin had failed to surround His Honor with the number of advisers called for under the constitution. The dismissal of Mr. Semlin took place on the 27th of February, four days after the vote of disapproval by the legislature, His Honor (greatly to his credit) refusing to listen to a proposition from Mr. Semlin that he should be allowed to admit certain members of the opposition to his cabinet and continue to hold office as a coalitionist. Then came Mr. Martin's opportunity. The Lieutenant-Governor called upon him to form a ministry, and he took up the burden. Immediately a vote of non-confidence in Mr. Martin was passed by the legislature, and as a further protest against the Lieutenant-Governor's choice of a minister the whole house—Liberals, Conservatives and Independents—filed from the chamber in a body and left His Honor to read the prorogation speech to empty chairs!

Now, sir, the value of a precedent or a proverb consists in its application. I have shown that Mr. Turner was dismissed from office when he had at least 17 votes in a house of 38; that Mr. Semlin was dismissed after he had been defeated by a majority of one, and that he was not permitted to retain office when he subsequently showed a majority of 10 (raise my hat in His Honor's honor for his sturdy attitude in that crisis!) But what can be said of His Honor's attitude towards Mr. Martin? The new Premier, unanimously condemned by the legislature, has had eleven days in which to secure a full ministry of six, and he has only got three. Mr. Beaven after five days obtained a like number and had to abandon the task. Mr. Semlin was one short of the constitutional number, which fact forms one of the grievances the Lieutenant-Governor lays down in his despatch in which he dismissed Mr. Semlin. And Mr. Martin, who has been unanimously censured by the legislature, who cannot get a single member of that body to join his government, who, in point of fact has not a supporter in the house, is able to boast that His Honor has told him to "take his time" in forming a government, that he intends to prosecute public works and pay salaries and claims by means of special warrants issued under the hand of the Lieutenant-Governor, and that he intends to put off the elections until after the revision of the voters' lists, which will render it a physical impossibility to bring the house together before the ides of September.

I hesitate to believe that Mr. Martin speaks with authority, and I feel sure that the Lieutenant-Governor will not abandon the principle he has laid down, and extend to Mr. Martin with only two colleagues and without a single follower, that courtesy and favor which he refused to extend to Messrs. Turner and Semlin, who each held 18 followers in a house of 38. The next few weeks are pregnant with startling results.

D. W. HIGGINS.

THE POLITICAL CRISIS.

Sir: I see Mr. Higgins is writing to you, showing the danger of the provincial election being delayed to a time which must land the province without supplies legally voted, for at least three months. I cannot check the figures Mr. Higgins gives, but it must be easy for government officials to do so, therefore, if there is no contradiction of Mr. Higgins' statement I must conclude he is correct. To spend three months' income in England, which had not been voted by the House of Commons, would not only terminate any ministry, but would end even the monarchy itself. The holding of the strings of the purse is the guarantee of freedom from encroachments by the crown on the free institutions of England. That is so well known that it should not require to be stated.

Mr. Higgins asks for an immediate appeal to the people and perhaps that is the best thing to do, but if His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor or his Prime Minister objects, there is the other course. Let a government be formed out of those who constitute the present house of representatives; let them take office on the understanding that they are to go in to no party questions, but merely to pass necessary temporary legislation and to dissolve in the autumn. That would get the province out of the muddle which it is in now, and there is a grand precedent for such action in recent times in England. I hardly think political parties in this country should be ashamed to follow the old country in such matters.

JAMES ANGUS.

March 10, 1900.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF AN EXTRA-PROVINCIAL COMPANY.

"COMPANIES ACT, 1897."

"Alberni Copper Company."

Filed and registered this 15th day of February, 1900.

I hereby certify that I have this day registered the "Alberni Copper Company" as an Extra-Provincial Company under the "Companies Act, 1897," to carry out or effect all or any of the objects hereinafter set forth to which the legislative authority of the Legislature of British Columbia extends.

The head office of the Company is situate in the City of Portland, State of Oregon, U.S.A.

The amount of the capital of the Company is one hundred thousand dollars, divided into one million shares of ten cents each.

The head office of the Company in this Province is situate in the City of Victoria, and Granville H. Hayes, miner, whose address is Victoria aforesaid, is the attorney for the Company.

The duration of the Company shall be perpetual.

The objects for which the Company has been established are:

First.—To purchase, locate or otherwise acquire, to bond, lease, own, hold, possess, mine, operate, work, sell, convey and dispose of gold, silver, lead and copper mines and other mines, mining rights, mineral lands, lodes and veins, and interests therein, in the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and in British Columbia and elsewhere.

Second.—To procure crown grants from the Government of British Columbia and patents from the Government of the United States to mines, mineral, timber and saline lands, and other lands, and to hold, possess, enjoy, sell, convey and dispose of said mines and lands.

Third.—To carry on and conduct the business of mining on and extracting metals from such mines, mining rights, mineral lands, lodes and veins as the Company may hereafter purchase, lease or otherwise acquire.

Fourth.—To purchase, use, operate, maintain, sell and dispose of any and all machinery, appliances, mills, smelters, reduction works, concentrating works and other necessary or convenient apparatus for working of mines, reduction of ores or extraction of metals from ores.

Fifth.—To purchase, erect, build, operate, maintain, possess, sell, convey and dispose of smelters, reduction works, matting plants, concentration works and sampling works, saw mills, flumes, ditches, roads, railroads and tramways to be used in connection with the other business of this corporation.

Sixth.—To run, operate and maintain such mills, smelters, reduction works, concentration works, matting plants and sampling works, saw mills, flumes, ditches, roads, tramways and railroads telephone lines and telegraph lines as may be necessary or convenient for the proper carrying on of the other enterprises specified herein, whether or not the same be adjacent to or in direct connection with the mines or other property of this corporation.

Seventh.—To locate, purchase or otherwise acquire, lease, own, hold, sell, convey and dispose of lands mill sites water rights and privileges and other rights and privileges within said states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and British Columbia.

Eighth.—To subscribe for, purchase, own, hold, possess, sell, convey and dispose of shares of stocks, stocks or bonds of any company or corporation; to guarantee or otherwise secure the payment of dividends on shares of stocks of other companies or corporations, or of the interest or principal of bonds of other companies or corporations by pledge, mortgage or deed of trust of the property of this corporation, any part thereof or otherwise.

Ninth.—To carry on and conduct a general business of purchasing, buying, selling and vending goods, wares, merchandise and commodities in different places within the said states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and in British Columbia, as may be deemed desirable or convenient.

Tenth.—To buy, sell and deal in ores and to extract metals from ores.

Eleventh.—To purchase, acquire, buy, sell, convey and dispose of tunnel rights.

Twelfth.—To purchase, acquire, build, construct, equip, maintain, operate, sell, convey and dispose of tunnels in connection with any mines or mining claims owned by this corporation in the said states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and in British Columbia, and to charge and receive tolls and compensation for the use of said tunnels by others, and the operation of such tunnels for the benefit of others.

Thirteenth.—To act as agent for other corporations, companies, persons and firms.

Fourteenth.—To purchase, own, hold possess, rent, lease, improve and acquire any and all real estate and personal property necessary, desirable or convenient for the transaction of the business of this corporation, whether the same be situated adjacent or contiguous to any of the mines or mining claims or other property owned by this corporation or not, and to sell, transfer, convey, lease, mortgage, give in trust and dispose of all or any of its property, whether real, personal or mixed, in such manner as may be deemed convenient, desirable or expedient.

Fifteenth.—To borrow money on its notes, bonds, debentures, and other obligations for the general or any special purpose of the corporation, and to mortgage, pledge and give in trust any and all of its property, real and personal, to secure the payment thereof.

Sixteenth.—To do and to perform all matters and things necessary, incident, proper, desirable or convenient for the accomplishment of the objects and business above specified.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at Victoria, Province of British Columbia, this 15th day of February, one thousand nine hundred.

[L.S.] S. Y. WOOTTON,
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

LICENCE AUTHORISING AN EXTRA-PROVINCIAL COMPANY TO CARRY ON BUSINESS.

"COMPANIES ACT, 1897."

CANADA:

Province of British Columbia,
No. 176.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the "Golden River Quesnelle, Limited," is authorised and licensed to carry on business within the Province of British Columbia, and to carry out or effect all or any of the objects of the Company to which the legislative authority of the Legislature of British Columbia extends.

The head office of the Company is situate in England.

The amount of the capital of the Company is £350,000, divided into 350,000 shares of £1 each.

The head office of the Company in this Province is situate in Victoria, and Joseph Hunter, Civil Engineer, whose address is Victoria aforesaid, is the attorney for the Company.

The objects for which the Company has been established are set out in the Certificate of Registration granted to the Company on the 18th day of August, 1896, published in the B. C. Gazette on the 10th September, 1896.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Victoria, Province of British Columbia, this 21st day of February, one thousand nine hundred.

[L.S.] S. Y. WOOTTON,
Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.