SAANICH AND THE "MACHINE."

Mr. John Piercy, who was a well-known and successful business man in Victoria before he entered upon the honorable profession of agriculture, has been nominated to contest the constituency of Saanich in the interests of the Liberal party. The candidate is doubtless now as well known to the farmers of the district in which he resides as he was in this city previous to his acceptance of the call to a higher sphere. If that be the case, it is not necessary for us to go through the formality of attempting to introduce him to his future constituents. A whole-souled gentleman, affable in manner, tireless in energy, and of demonstrated ability, there is little doubt that Mr. Piercy will prove a splendid representative of the most important agricultural constituency on Vancouver Island, and there is not the slightest fear but the ultimate result will prove that the choice of the Liberal convention, a convention conducted with open doors and without the slightest suggestion of extraneous influences, will be the choice of the whole riding. All this we believe we can say without reflecting in the remotest degree upon the diligence, the capacity or the ability of the former member, Mr. Tanner. We are confident that Mr. Tanner could have carried the seat for the Liberal party; but it is for the people of the constituency, as the parties chiefly interested, to say who shall be chosen to represent them. Mr. Tanner, being a Liberal himself and knowing the traditions of Liberalism, understands this and will be one of the chief of the supporters of his successor in the important position to which he has been called by his fellow-electors.

It has been insinuated by the Colonist, a recognized authority on all matters pertaining to "machine" politics, that Mr. Piercy secured the nomination on the motion of some mysterious piece of political machinery. Only a short time ago Premier McBride addressed meetings in the constituency. During the course of his depressing pilgrimage Mr. McBride plainly told the electors that it was their duty to select Mr. D. M. Eberts as a candidate for the representation of the district. He pointed out to them that they had suffered because of their rejection of the Victoria lawyer at the previous election. His faithful henchmen, as in duty bound, immediately proceeded to carry out Premier McBride's commands. Was there any suggestion in this of "machine" influences?

In like manner the Premier issued his commands to the "machine" in Victoria, and the result was seen in the selection of three men who had to be identified in the convention by photographs issued by the "workers of the machine" because of the fact that they were absolutely unknown by many who had been taken into the hall for the express purpose of voting for them! Faithful and honorable Conservatives who had adhered to the party not wisely but too well, notwithstanding the obloquy that had been heaped upon it by the McBride government, were thrust aside at the command of the "machine." Some of them knew what "they were up against" and declined to submit their names to the packed convention. Others, not so well versed in the peculiar methods of these degenerate days of Conservatism, innocently submitted to the humiliation prepared for them. They are deeply resentful now they understand the manner in which the convention was manipulated. Some of them withdrew in wrath before the proceedings had been concluded.

These are examples of the tactics of the "machine" in Victoria and in Saanich and in every constituency in which it has been considered necessary to select candidates by putting them through the mill.

And what about the record of the gentleman lawyer whom the Tory machine would foist upon the agriculturists of Saanich? Mr. McBride was the leader of the opposition which exposed the connection of Mr. Eberts with a scandalous deal for the exploitation by a great corporation of the natural wealth of the province. The affair was so reprehensible and the defence put up was so lame that Mr. Eberts was forced out of the ministry. He was kicked forth by another prominent Conservative, Col. Prior. Evidently the Premier and his nominees think the people have forgotten that indefensible transaction. Is Mr. Eberts the kind of representative the people of Saanich want?

SOMETHING VICTORIANS SHOULD MAKE A NOTE OF.

Probably the most significant feature of the provincial election campaign as far as it has progressed is the tremendous enthusiasm the Liberals of Vancouver are displaying. One of the newspapers of the Terminal City says the reception accorded the leader of the Liberal party and the candidates selected to contest the constituency was extraordinary in the fervor displayed. "The city hall was literally packed to the ceiling, people being perched on the edge of the platform, on the window sills and on ladders leaning against the walls, so great was the attendance of persons desiring to hear the Liberal leaders." With men of the weight and influence and ability of Messrs. McInnes, Judge Henderson and R. P. McLennan leading on, there is no reason to doubt that the old "solid five" are going to be permanently dissolved on election day. Nor is there any gainsaying the fact that Vancouver with its large representation in the Legislature is the pivotal point in the fight. Vancouver and the Socialists in the last contest made the theft of the Fernie seat the salvation of the McBride government. It is evident that our neighbors at the other end of the gulf have sincerely repented of their great political transgression. They are going to atone for the evil they have done the province, not knowing what the consequences of their grievous mistake would be. It therefore behooves all sections of the province to assist them in the honorable task to which they have set their hands. The supporters of the government in Victoria affect to believe that this city, which has been a mark for the hostility of the Socialist-Conservative government, is going to overlook the administration's offences, not only against us but against the province as a whole in the various deals and steals which have been committed. We are satisfied Victoria will make no such serious mistake as that. If we condoned the many sins of the McBride government we should be unworthy of serious political consideration in the future and richly deserve the condition of isolation to which we had committed ourselves.

WHAT IT MEANS.

The action of Mr. W. W. B. McInnes in resigning the commissionership of the Yukon, carrying with it a handsome salary, to take part in the present provincial political contest, was beyond the comprehension of the leaders of the Socialist-Tory organization of British Columbia. They could not understand it at all. They said there must be something in it that did not appear on the surface. And there was. There is. It is an evidence of the faith of Mr. McInnes that the McBride government is going to be defeated by a great majority on February 2nd. The ex-Commissioner says he would rather be a cabinet minister in the coming Liberal governor than Governor of the Yukon. Now the resignation of Judge Henderson of Vancouver has dropped like another shell into the camp of Premier McBride and his allies who proclaim their intention to haul down the flag because they propose as soon as they have strength enough to abolish all national boundary lines and set up a "great communistic brotherhood as wide as the continent." The grave and dignified News-Advertiser, panic-stricken as the members of the government were when they were told to throw their Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works overboard, expresses its regret at the reflection which has been cast upon the Bench of the province by the resignation of Judge Henderson to run as a candidate in Vancouver in the Liberal interests. It says such a thing is unprecedented. Our contemporary is not familiar with the history of Canada or it would not make such a mistake. Mr. Henderson could quote notable precedents for his action if he were so minded. The late Sir John Thompson occupied a seat on the Bench before he entered upon public life and became premier of Canada. Sir Oliver Mowat was a judge previous to entering upon the long political career which was not marked by a single defeat. Mr. S. H. Blake held the position of Vice-Chancellor of Ontario, or some post just as important, from which he retired to take up private practice and to bring his great influence to bear upon the political sentiment of his province. Mr. Henderson is entering this contest because he has a strong predilection for public life and believes that now is the accepted time for action on the part of every man who desires to do good service for his country. But we agree with the News-Advertiser that there is something behind the movement which is inducing so many men of influence and standing in the communities of British Columbia to identify themselves with the cause of Liberalism—to give up high and dignified positions which carry good salaries for the purpose of serving the people in political capacities. They are influenced by the current which is running so strongly against the McBride government. They feel that there never was a time when the call from the constituencies was so insistent. They have responded to the demand that all who feel any degree of responsibility for the future of the province shall come forward and assist in the great work of redeeming the good name of British Columbia, which has been disgraced by Premier McBride's connection with Socialistic adventurers and other adventurers whose antecedents and careers are more deserving of public condemnation.

THE NOMINATIONS.

The four gentlemen who achieved such a signal victory for the Liberal party of Victoria at the provincial general elections of 1903 were again selected last evening as the candidates of the party in the contest which will terminate on February 2nd. The convention was a large one, as well as one of the most enthusiastic and harmonious that has ever been held here. Other strong men, men who are well known to the community as staunch Liberals and old campaigners in this and other provinces, had consented to submit their names to the convention, but, as they explained themselves, only on the understanding that some of the late members had given expression to a desire to retire for a time into private life. But when the result of the balloting was announced Messrs. Peters and Marchant were the first to express their hearty approval of the choice of the meeting. They agreed that the convention had chosen wisely; that Victoria had been worthily represented by the old four; that the interests of the city had ben diligently looked after during the past three years in the face of the determination of a government that was avowedly sectional in its composition to withhold from us every advantage that was ours by natural position as the centre of many important interests and industries. We are confident that great body of the electorate of the city will agree with the sentiments thus opportunely expressed. The McBride government, in dismay at the judgment that is hanging over its head, has practically confessed, by doling out a cabinet position to an obscure and weak representative of an Island constituency, that it has not done justice to this important section of British Columbia. But its tardy recognition of an infinitesimal portion of our rights has come too late in the day, we are convinced, to achieve the purpose aimed at: to secure the support it feels it stands in such dire need of in view of the tremendous revulsion of feeling in other portions of the province.

We doubt not that in the course of the campaign Messrs. Drury, Cameron, Hall and McNiven will deal with some of the acts of the Premier, who has had the effrontery to present himself as a candidate in the constituency which has been honored with so many special marks of his hostility. Without taking into account the record of the government of which he is the head, and which would sink into oblivion any public man in the most obtuse and corrupt of the states of this continent, Mr. McBride has exhibited a degree of animosity and hostility to Victoria because she saw fit to reject all of his candidates at the election of 1903 that would be considered unworthy of the most pettifogging, narrow-minded politician who ever occupied a public office.

In the light of the facts, when we consider the record of the government and the individual acts of the head of the government from the point of view of Victorians, we have the most implicit confidence that the result on February 2nd, 1907, will be practically the same as the result in October, 1903, with this difference: that the majorities of Messrs. Drury, Cameron, Hall and McNiven ought to be largely increased. The people of this city expressed their confidence in the candidates of the Liberal party when it entered upon the contest without a leader and without time to formulate and enunciate a policy. How much greater ought their confidence to be now that the Liberal party has a leader of commanding ability and unimpeachable integrity and has enunciated a policy which will conserve and develop our great natural resources for the benefit of all the people, when he is surrounded by supporters who are as loyal to him as they are immeasurably superior in every public characteristic to those who are opposing them in the constituencies and who are certain to enter the new House with a majority which will sweep, not only out of the legislature, but practically out of existence, the McBride government. This may sound like an extravagant statement, but it is borne out by our advices from the constituencies, and if our readers will take the trouble to go over themselves the list of candidates who are in the field, we are confident they will arrive at the conclusion that there is good reason for the enthusiasm that prevails in Liberal ranks.

THAT PECULIAR CIRCULAR.

An attempt has been made to explain why on the very day dissolution was announced notices were sent out summoning a few, not the whole, of the members of the Legislature to meet for the dispatch of business on March 7th. The explanation does not clear the matter up at all. It leaves it in a greater muddle than the minds of the ministers must have been thrown into when they were told to throw the Chief Commissioner out. We are told the proceeding was a mere matter of routine. Some clerk got an idea into his head—where no ideas ought to be unless they are put there by a responsible minister—that as the Executive Council had decided to call the new House together on March 8th it was his duty to issue circulars notifying the members of the old House that they were expected to meet for the dispatch of business on March 7th. The Colonist took up a good deal of space in its attempt to explain how the mistake was made, but the foregoing is the purport of it put in as small a compass as possible, because after all the matter is not of great importance, except that it clearly proves that not only the members of the government, but its journalistic supporters, have been reduced to a state of incipient imbecility by the disruption of the ministry and the state of affairs in the province following it. The first attempt to explain away the fact of the summons has been so lame that we invite our "rattled" contemporary to apply again to the source of its information and see if something more satisfactory cannot be discovered. In the meantime we repeat what we said yesterday, and what must be the conviction of every person who looks for a common sense explanation of all extraordinary political phenomena, that the government had carefully computed the strength of the sentiment Premier McBride's grand stand play on the question of better terms had created—that the decision had been reached that this feeling was not going to obscure the real issues of the day and avert the defeat of the administration; that the conclusion had been reached that it would not be expedient to proceed with the set programme of dissolving the House and appealing to the country; that it had been decided to summon the Legislature for the dispatch of business; that just as this decision had been reached some power which held the life of the government in its hand laid before the Premier its ultimatum; that the Chief Commissioner, who up to a few hours before his resignation was announced had no intention whatever of retiring from the government, had to be thrown overboard on an hour's notice; and that in the midst of the panic which naturally followed the acting Provincial Secretary overlooked the fact that orders had been issued to his clerks to call the old House together. All this is borne out by two circumstances as well as by the well-known fact that the Premier could not have been induced to part company with the one man in the government who possessed his personal friendship and absolute confidence except under compulsion. The circumstances are that not all, but only a few, members of the late House received the circulars referred to and that the new Legislature has been summoned for March 8th, according to announcement in the Colonist, not March 7th, the date of assembly fixed by the circular.

MR. W. W. B. M'INNES.

The defenders of the highly-flavored career of the McBride government profess to be anxious to know why Mr. W. W. B. McInnes has decided to enter public life again in British Columbia. They cannot comprehend his case at all. Here is a man in possession of a highly lucrative and desirable office under the Crown—in receipt of twelve thousand dollars per annum, with certain living allowances. All this he deliberately throws aside in order to take part in a contest the outcome of which they affect to believe is extremely doubtful. They carefully go into the records of their own party, and they can find no parallel case. They are incredulous, and no wonder. Whoever heard of a true Tory resigning any office in order to render service to his country? Mr. Macdonald, the Liberal leader, tells them that Mr. McInnes has entered the fight at his personal request. The provincial chieftain of the Liberal party has personally surveyed the situation in all parts of the province. He says that the tide of public opinion is running strongly against the government everywhere. In every constituency in which nominations have been held strong men have volunteered to represent the cause of the party because they are disgusted with the scandals and the incompetence which have been revealed and have brought reproach upon the good name of the province. In several of the districts men who have heretofore been active Conservatives, notably in Vancouver and Kaslo, have accepted nominations and undertaken to represent the cause of good government and reform. Mr. Macdonald is so thoroughly assured of the result that he is collecting material for the formation of what will be one of the strongest governments ever got together in this province or in any of the provinces of the Dominion. Mr. McInnes has been called in in view of the outlook. He says himself he would rather be a member of a Liberal government in British Columbia than governor of the Yukon. He received a rousing reception on Monday on the occasion of his first re-appearance in the public life of the province. There was no mistaking the feeling of that audience. There will be no mistaking the feeling of every audience he addresses. There is not a constituency in the province that would not be delighted with the honor of having him as its representative. There is not a single constituency in the province that he could not carry. That is the reason the government and the remnant of the party the government has misrepresented and betrayed are dismayed at the unexpected advent of W. W. B. McInnes. He is going to head the ticket that is destined to redeem Vancouver, the constituency that has been the mainstay of the McBride administration, apart from the Socialist party, of course. He could have had a nomination in this city had he desired it. Probably we could have had him here had we spoken soon enough. But Vancouver, with its usual enterprise, got ahead of us. However, there is some consolation in the thought that Vancouver is more in need of the services of such a strong candidate than we are. We have kept the true faith for several years, and there is no probability that we shall go back now even against the alleged redoubtable Premier McBride. Victoria is not likely to commit any such serious mistake when it is evident to all men capable of truly estimating the situation and who cannot be deceived by Conservative avowals of confidence that the government is in extremis.

In a few weeks, when the new Liberal government comes into power, the veil will be lifted which at present covers several mysteries.

THE FIRST LIBERAL MEETING.

The Colonist says the first campaign meeting of the Liberal party held in the Victoria theatre was a very "cold" affair. Possibly one of the candidates on the Socialist-Conservative ticket, who was on the theatre stage during a portion of the proceedings, carried the chilly atmosphere from Institute Hall, where the forlorn two hundred had gathered to cheer for Premier McBride and defend his alliances with socialistic and other adventurers, across to the theatre with him. But if the night was cold the audience was warm enough in its appreciation of the efforts of the speakers. It was one of the best meetings ever held in the city of Victoria. The leader of the Liberal party dealt with the record of Premier McBride in a characteristically able, thoughtful and analytical address. He reviewed the career of this so-called Conservative government from the day it was brought into being by an act of treachery without parallel in the history of this or any other province, showed how life was kept in it although it had been defeated at the polls by the bare-faced theft of the seat of Fernie from the Liberal party, proved that but for its scandalous alliance with the Socialists the regime must have been brought to a timely end during the very first session of the Legislature, exposed its subservience to the will and its compliance with all the demands of a great railway corporation, laid bare the incompetence of the Premier as revealed in the conduct of our case before the inter-provincial conference at Ottawa and the dishonesty of the cry of "better terms," and generally demonstrated what an unfortunate thing it was for the province of British Columbia that the "first Conservative government British Columbia ever had" was brought into existence.

Mr. Macdonald also proved his capacity for leadership and for premiership by clearly and succinctly outlining the policy the Liberal party will pursue when it is called into power next month. He demonstrated that by equitably distributing the burden of taxation, by taking the burden imposed by the government off the class least able to bear it and placing it upon interests which have hitherto unjustifiably escaped taxation altogether, great relief can be afforded and industry stimulated. He outlined what could be done by an efficient government to promote the settlement of our vacant lands. In brief, the speech of the opposition leader was that of a statesman sincerely desirous of performing a public duty. It will inspire confidence in his capacity for administration, and for that reason will have a direct effect upon the campaign in this city and district.

The Times was an advocate of the cause of better terms for British Columbia long before the Colonist had the courage to even so much as allude to the subject. The attitude of the Times has never varied. It is that of every individual and every party sincere in the advocacy of better terms. The course of Premier McBride, as Conservatives privately admit, was taken, not with a true desire to secure more favorable treatment for British Columbia, but in the hope of raising a cry he believed, mistakenly it is now apparent, would help him in the elections. He has prejudiced our case beyond repair, while he remains in power; but the obstacles he has created will be removed with his retirement soon after the 2nd day of February next.

* * *

Four were taken and four left at the nominating convention of the Socialist-Conservative party held in this city on Monday. The rejected four can, however, comfort themselves with the reflection that it will be all the same on the evening of February 2nd. The electors will complete the work of the convention. They will all be left.

* * *

Concerning the reputation of Premier McBride for sincerity and candor, a correspondent writes that his "unreliability is generally admitted among the members of his own party, but that some of them excuse and laugh at it to a certain extent because they say his way of handling people is so much like the late Sir John Macdonald." What do honest Conservatives think of that?

* * *

It turns out now that another session of the Legislature was contemplated; in fact that the notices had been mailed to the members, but between a sunset and sunrise Green got out of the cabinet and a dissolution of the House was hastily announced, and the country thrown into an election contest.

* * *

Among the candidates who stood for nomination at one of the recent conventions was well-known and able politician (Conservative). A friend said to him yesterday: "Well, if you had been successful in the convention and had become the party candidate, what could you have said in favor of the McBride government anyway?" His answer is instructive. Laughing, he said: "'Better terms,' I would keep clear of everything else and just talk better terms."

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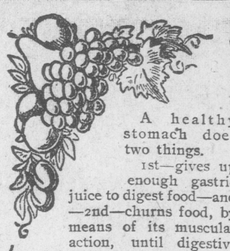

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ROMANCE OF INDUSTRY.

A romance of industry is recalled by the will, which has just been proved, of Edward Arnett, of the Garth, Monmouth, who left £97,651.

Mr. Arnett started life as a groom, and he died a colliery proprietor. The successive stages of his career were as follows: Groom, gardener, railway porter, hotel keeper, coal merchant, colliery proprietor.

When he died last August he was chairman of the Ewloe and Merthyr Dare Steam Collieries, Limited, J. P. for the county of Glamorgan, a member of the Monmouth town council, and a member of the Wye conservancy.

—In the police court this morning Nakamoto, a Jap who is accused of stealing a small savings bank containing $25 from a fellow countryman, was again remanded, and his case will be heard to-morrow.

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REPORT OF DEPARTMENT ON SONGHEES' RE

(Continued from page 3.)

Mr. Powell recommended on t August, 1874, that Sallas Islan ated on the Straits of Haro, a miles from Victoria, should b chased for the Songhees Indians recommendation was approved governor in council, but, the having refused to surrender, further was done.

Indians' Conditions.

In 1881, after some further pondence with Mr. Powell, he that a majority of the India agreed to move to Cadboro Bay ancient camping grounds, p suitable lands could be secur them at that place. Correspo with this in view resulted in the son's Bay Company agreeing property desired by Mr. Pow Indians and containing 1,12 for the sum of $56,250. Mr. Pow commended the acceptance of th especially in view of the fact t offer of $60,000 had been receive one Mr. P. C. Dunlevy for the So reserve.

It was considered, however, th amount offered for the reserve w sufficient.

In 1884 instructions were iss Messrs. Powell and O'Reilly, the being the Indian reserve commi to confer together and ascert what terms a satisfactory lo could be purchased for the Indi the Songhees and Esquimalt re and were informed that the site chosen was to contain from 500 t acres and was not to be less t miles from Victoria.

Metchosen Mentioned.

A report was received from M Powell and O'Reilly on the 10th 1886, recommending the purch two lots of land in the Metchose trict in the vicinity of Pedder about eight or nine miles from V by water and fifteen or sixteen by These two lots together totalled acres. Purchase of these lots w commended, but the deputy su tendent-general reported against purchase until a sale had been m the Esquimalt and Songhees rese until the consent of the Indians had been obtained.

This report was concurred in then minister, Sir John A. Macd

The correspondence with refere the removal of the Indians Metchosen district was continued August, 1888, but led to little f being done. In the meantime an was made for the Songhees reser Mr. R. Dunsmuir, acting for the Malt & Nanaimo Railway Com The price offered by the company $60,000 for the whole reserve, or for one half of it. Mr. Dunsmuir authorized to negotiate with th dians for the sale of the reserve failed to secure their consent sale.

The Province's Claim.

Between the years 1887 and 1892 siderable correspondence took pla tween the department, Mr. Dun and also the provincial gover (whose claim to a reversion lands had been advanced), with t sult, however, that the settleme this matter seemed to be about off as ever. Several interviews been held with the Indians, but were not prepared to give their sent to sale.

It was during the period above tioned that the request of the c Victoria to have the Indians re and the reserve conveyed to the poration upon certain conditions ed part of the correspondence negotiations for a settlement o question.

The Indian superintendent at toria was informed on 17th Septe 1891, that if the reserve were s the city none of the money der therefrom would be used for th provement of Victoria harbor, a been suggested, but all should be lized for the benefit of the Indians

On the 26th August, 1891, a tel was received from the Vancouve and Land Investment Company ing $350,000 for the reserve and to 15 acres to the Esquimalt & Na Railway Company. Following offer a meeting of the Indians wa to consider the question of sur upon terms as to desirable lo buildings, etc., and investment o ance of funds for their benefit.

In 1893 the superintendent re he had interviewed the Indians times, but that they declined to render.

Provincial Proposals.

On the 9th March, 1895, the clerk of the executive council of B Columbia forwarded an app minute expressing the views o government as to the best meth effecting a settlement of the qu of the removal of the Songhees from their reserve to a suitable ity, and, after stating claim of the vincial government to the reversi the reserve, he intimated that Songhees Indians would be willi treat for removal to another lo on the following basis, namely: obtaining of 949 acres, more or le the Metchosin district; payme three-fifths of the value of th provements on the reserve after tion and removal in cash, the ba to be used for the purchase and ery of lumber on the new reserve the funds at that time at the cre the band should be utilized for th chase of live stock, implements erection of a school, etc.; that case of several Indians who had themselves to be thrifty by steady at a trade in the city a suitable more should be obtained for ea them in the neighborhood of Roc the Dominion government to pa taxes, and that provision shou made for the removal of the dead from the present reserve.

The provincial government w bear the whole cost attendant removal of the said Indians wi exception of the taxes and to pro new reserve in consideration of t lease of the present Songhees to the province. This arrangeme not accepted.

Special Commission.

On the 31st January, 1896, the tenant-Governor of British Col forwarded an approved report committee of his executive counc