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W. J. ROBINSON.

\$1.00 PER YEAR, STRICTLY IN ADVANCE, TO ANY ADDRESS IN CANADA, UNITED STATES, OR GREAT BRITAIN.

The Victoria Times

TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1903.

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VOL. 34.

NO. 35.

M'BRIDE WILL FORM CONSERVATIVE CABINET

The Party Line Issue is at Length Clearly Drawn--The Old Opposition Party Passes Out of Existence.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The party line issue in British Columbia politics is at last clearly drawn. The old government, which in some form or another has ruled British Columbia for a decade or more, having been effectively dealt with by the legislature, the man selected by His Honor to undertake the task of establishing the new order, has decided to base his act on the party affiliations recognized in Dominion political affairs.

To-day Mr. McBride, who yesterday was leader of His Majesty's opposition in the House, is no longer at the head of that body. He has dissolved his following, and will seek support from other quarters, and from those with whom he is associated in Dominion political affairs.

The outcome was not unexpected. After rising of the House yesterday afternoon, certain members of the McBride party indicated that their vote in favor of adjournment would be reversed to-day unless Mr. McBride formed a straight Conservative government. It then became patent that at the opposition caucus to be held last night a determined effort would be made to force that view on the party.

Events proved that what many have predicted would happen actually took place. A majority of the opposition party were agreed in the opinion that the party which had won the fight, which had accomplished the downfall of the government, and whose leader had logically been sent for by His Honor to assume control of affairs, should commonly participate in the fruits of that victory. At the same time, due recognition was made of the clamor throughout the country for party lines, and the opinion of some of the members seemed to be that to go to the country on any other basis would be to invite defeat.

Finding this sentiment obtaining, the Liberal members gracefully accepted the situation and intimated that after what had been expressed they could only lose in dignity by consenting to serve longer in their old relation. No vote, so it is stated, was taken, but the situation tacitly accepted by all present.

Thus there passed out of existence the party which in its collective capacity has rendered such signal service to the country, in preventing two of the biggest steals which ever threatened this province, namely, the ceding of blocks 4,593 and 4,594 to the C.P.R. and the transfer of an enormous tract of land to the Canada Northern. The circumstances attending the former are still fresh in the public mind, and the part the Liberal members on the opposition side of the House played in it will not certainly be overlooked by the country nor will the electorate be disposed to accord credit for that where it does not belong. The events in connection with the Canada Northern steal, and the abortive attempt to pass bill 87, are not quite so vivid in the minds of the people of the province. But those familiar with the facts will recall that for four months, the longest session of a British Columbia legislature on record, the opposition fought stubbornly and unflinchingly the attempt to perpetrate the Canada Northern outrage. Most of those members were poor men and could ill afford the time and money which that fight involved, but they kept perseveringly to their task, and despite the combined effort of the government and Mr. Martin and his following they frustrated that iniquity. The manner of the passing of the opposition party may not be glorious, but the record they established is an enviable one.

At the conclusion of the caucus at a late hour last night Mr. McBride announced to a Times reporter that he had decided to form a government on party lines. It would be a Conservative ministry, and he would attempt if possible to pass supply in the House. If advisable some necessary legislation might

also be passed, after which an appeal would be taken to the country upon party lines. He contended that everything considered he believed this course was in the best interests of the country. In order to facilitate matters he was desirous of having simply a president of the council sworn in who would take control of the House and pass the necessary estimates. This would do away with the necessity of breaking into the business of the session in order to allow the new ministers an opportunity to meet their constituents.

This morning Capt. Tatlow was sworn in as President of the Council, and will assume control of the House this afternoon in the absence from the chamber of Premier McBride, and will make the proposition to pass necessary supply.

The new Premier realizing the debt he owes to the large following of Liberals who have assisted very materially in placing him in the position he to-day occupies, says he is prepared to deal fairly with them. In supply which is proposed to be granted he wants no unfair advantage taken. He is satisfied that the estimates to be presented for the next session at this House to cover the necessities of the time intervening before the new House can be called together should be fairly distributed.

In line with this idea a committee of the House, composed of five from each side, were asked this morning by Mr. McBride to undertake a revision of the estimates, and to consider any items which might be of contentious character. This committee went to work at 10.30 in cedar room and consisted of Messrs. Semlin, Paterson, Tatlow, Fulton and Kidd for the old opposition, Messrs. Clifford, Houston, McInnes, Hall and Ellison for the old government party. It is expected they will be able to bring down to the House estimates agreeable to all concerned mutually. This committee expects to be ready to report this afternoon to the House.

Further, Mr. McBride assured the Times reporter that he would deal fairly with the Liberal party in preparing for the election. He says he will take no undue advantage over the Liberal party in any way in preparing the lists or carrying out the preliminary arrangements for the test of strength. All he desires is a fair test of the will of the people upon party lines. He is ready to abide by the decision of the electorate. Naturally the step which has been taken has caused a good deal of bitterness. The Conservatives regard this step of the opposition leader as rather sharp practice on his part in supplanting the recognized heads of the party, and in response to telegrams, Charles Wilson, their leader, came down from the Mainland last night.

Mr. Wilson was busily employed this morning, and an expression of his views could not be obtained. But in Mr. Houston, Nelson, the chairman of the Conservative executive, the House has a gentleman who is supposed to accurately represent the views of the party. Mr. Houston looks very much askance at the new chief, and if any one wants to make the Nelson legislator warm he need only ask him his opinion of the probable outcome for the Conservative party in the Kootenays with its aggregation of dismissed and discredited chiefs and its new leader.

Among the Liberals there is a disposition to accept the situation philosophically. Men like Messrs. Munro, Oliver and Paterson are recognized as the heavyweights of the old opposition party, and without their prestige much of what has been accomplished could not have taken place. It is probable that the disintegration of the party would have come sooner had not Mr. McBride repudiated as an error and a slip of the tongue on the day of the defeat of the Prior government, a statement that he favored an appeal to the country at once on party lines.

Smith Curtis, on the other hand, warmly espouses the position Mr. McBride has taken, and advised him to that effect prior to the caucus. He believes that the division which must come some day is advisable at the present moment, and will prevent endless complications in the future. On every hand Liberals are insisting

that the party must now be got together, the differences healed and a united front presented for the approaching fight. It is possible that a meeting of the provincial Liberal executive will be held here this evening. It is altogether likely that supply will be granted by the House, as a dissolution is regarded as inevitable in any event, and the country stands in urgent need of supply. The state of ministers which Mr. McBride will ultimately submit to His Honor was stated by one of his closest friends this morning to be as follows: Premier and Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, R. McBride; Minister of Finance, R. G. Tatlow; Attorney-General, Chas. Wilson; Minister of Mines, R. F. Green; Provincial Secretary, J. P. Fulton; President of the Executive Council, A. E. McPhillips; R. E. Gosnell, if it is understood, will continue to act as the Premier's private secretary.

To Come Before House. The committee having undertaken in a formal way the revision of the estimates preparatory to their being passed by the House, if such was agreed to, decided this morning to postpone further consideration of the question until the session of the legislature was secured. Accordingly instructions will be asked this afternoon, after which it is agreeable to the House, the committee will continue its work.

Should the passing of necessary supply not be agreeable to the House the legislature will immediately be dissolved. Premier McBride will swear in his cabinet and the verdict of the people will be taken.

In the preparation of the lists Premier McBride thinks that not longer than four months will be required. He has in contemplation the preparation of a pamphlet setting forth the rules to be observed by voters in order to have their names placed on the new lists. This will enable all entitled to a vote to be put upon the lists so that no undue advantage may be taken. This is in keeping with his decision to deal as fairly as possible in the matter.

This afternoon some private bills which have yet a few stages to go through will be proceeded with.

(From Wednesday's Daily.) The path of the new Premier, R. McBride, promises to be anything but strewn with roses. By his action in declaring that he would form a party line administration, he has alienated the most effective section of his former following; while by the same token he has aroused the hostility of the old line Conservatives, who accepted Messrs. Prior, Eberts or Wilson as their leader. His advent in his new role is regarded as the act of an interloper, and while he may find Conservatives willing to support him to the extent of giving supply, their classification under his banner will cease there.

The attitude of the Conservative party of this city this morning, which is regarded as the personal mouthpiece of a most heinous offence in the eyes of the Prior Conservatives, who at the time of the Victoria bye-election enunciated the doctrine that lawyers would be anathema in all future administrations in this country.

Still another objection comes in the sectional spirit displayed in excluding the whole of Vancouver Island from representation in the cabinet with the exception of the honorary post of president of the council, which Mr. McBride has graciously indicated he will assign to Mr. McPhillips.

On the Liberal side immediate steps are being taken for closing up the ranks and preparing for the impending fight. To-day a meeting of the provincial executive is being held in Vancouver when the question of a Liberal convention in the immediate future will be considered. It is understood that there are now sufficient applications from Liberal associations to warrant this step under the constitution, and there is little doubt that Mr. Martin will facilitate such a move in view of the new conditions which have arisen. The government with supplies--the Dominion government

and Hall, who are members of the Liberal executive, were members of the Mainland to attend the meeting.

The committee appointed by the house to consider the estimates worked late last evening, and made very marked progress with their task. Last evening they completed the consideration of the main estimates, which were left practically untouched, and went into the supplementaries in which there promises to be a very large increase. All the promises and assurances given by the old ministry, the committee seemed to consider should be kept, and the result was that the original provision in the form of supplementaries was very largely augmented.

The committee resumed its labors this morning. The committee will sit again this evening. While the main estimates are turned over to the House practically as they stand there is a recommendation made that in certain lines these might be radically reduced. Certain sections are specified which are those relating to salaries, etc. This will not affect the public works at all. In the supplementaries lists increases are being made. Some of the members of the committee intimate that these increases are not so much in any large items, but increases all along are being asked for, more particularly in the up country. There is a vote of \$20,000 for Vancouver hospital.

The committee seem to consider it useless to fight these items out in their meeting, knowing that they have no authority in the matter, and that the House will have the privilege of either agreeing or disagreeing with them and finally deciding upon them. The present government will be forced to take the responsibility for these matters. Under the present financial conditions it is not considered likely that many increases will meet with the wishes of

Q--I think yours was the first case? A--It might have been one way or the other, but I think it was the opposition. They told me then in the House, Why don't you form your company into a joint stock company? and I said, Oh, I suppose it would be better, and then they said, "You can supply any government that you like." After looking into the matter, I found that there were some in my employ then who knew the business, and who would like to go into it; so I sold them some of my stock and formed it into a limited liability company.

Q--Although you were a majority owner of the stock in the firm of E. G. Prior & Co., and you don't think there is anything inappropriate in your government or the government of which you are a member buying from your firm? A--Certainly not, any more than a member who is a lawyer, or is attorney-general, and his partner takes charge of looking after a private bill for anybody and lobbying it through the House.

Q--You say that Mr. Gamble told you he thought it was a mistake for your firm to tender on account of you being a member of the government? A--Yes; he said so.

Q--You don't agree with Mr. Gamble? A--No; I don't.

In the House. Capt. Tatlow, on the Speaker taking the chair, reported on behalf of the special committee appointed by the House that considerable retrenchment could be effected, 2 to 11 inclusive, and these should be made by the government, even though the estimates as laid before the House were adopted.

Mr. Hunter, on privilege, asked if it was true as stated in the Colonist that the cabinet was as follows: Premier and Chief Commissioner, Hon. Richard McBride; Minister of Finance, Hon. R. G. Tatlow; Minister of Mines, Hon. Robt. F. Green; Provincial Secretary, Hon. P. J. Fulton; Attorney-General, Hon. Chas. Wilson; President of the Council, Hon. A. E. McPhillips.

He thought it was not too much to ask if this was true. It was of vital importance. He wanted also to know if the leader of the government was sitting in the House drawing a salary or not. The act of 1899 did not specify whether the President of the Council should draw a salary or not.

He wanted a clear explanation of these matters. Capt. Tatlow said that he had no information as to who were to be members of the Premier's government. It was his intention to make an announcement with respect to that in the course of two days perhaps. He was sorry to say he was not drawing a salary in his official position.

The House then proceeded with the orders of the day.

Statement By Sir H. Tupper. Vancouver, June 3.--Sir Hibbert Tupper denies the statement in this morning's Colonist that he is intending to desert the House of Commons to break into provincial politics. He says he never plans so far ahead, but announces that as a matter of business he won't run again for the Dominion House for Pictou, as it takes too much time to go to Ottawa.

FISHERMEN'S WAGES. Meetings Being Held for Purpose of Deciding Prices--Few Japs Will Fish.

Vancouver, June 2.--Meetings are being held in Vancouver nearly every day by cannery and fishermen, or jointly by representatives of the two organizations, for the purpose of arriving at a decision of what price shall prevail on the Fraser during the salmon season this year. The cannerymen have announced that the highest price they will pay is 15 cents for July and 14 cents for August. Some of the Japanese have submitted offers of 10 and 15 cents for the respective months, while the white fishermen are, through their unions, holding out for 18 and 17 cents. These are now being discussed, and a settlement may be made in a few days.

In Stevenson a rather peculiar state of affairs exists compared with other sections. The canneries are already making big preparations for the season, but the Japanese fishermen are not on hand. Not one-tenth of the number usually making ready for the season are getting their boats and gear in order, and it is doubtful if more than 400 or 500 of the foreigners will be fishing this year. A short time ago their representatives published a statement that there was no more in fishing at prevailing rates, and advising the Japs to remain at their present more remunerative employments in the woods and mills along the coast. Around Vancouver there are dozens of logging and shingle-boil camps, where none but Japanese are employed, and in these they are making a great deal more money than they would if they went fishing on the river, even if assured a large run of fish.

W. F. Bullen was among the passengers from the Sound by the Rosalie this morning.

and the Provincial government--and one session--I think it was a session or two after--got there--after I was in the House--I forget the year, it was 1897, '98 or '99--there was a sum of \$4 or \$5 down on the Auditor-General's report for E. G. Prior, or Fellows & Prior, or I think it was E. G. Prior & Co., but it was not Limited Liability, then I owned it all. Well, the opposition got on to it, and they were going to try and make me lose my seat, but fortunately we found an opposition man, a doctor, who had been paid \$5 for attending some Indians or other, so it was a saw-off.

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LADYSMITH LIBERALS. Association Organized and Officers Elected at Meeting Monday Night.

Nanaimo, June 2.--At an enthusiastic meeting of the Ladysmith Liberals held last evening it was decided to organize a Liberal Association. Mr. Sloan, organizer, urged immediate action in order to be prepared for the approaching elections. The following officers were elected: Hon. president, Sir Wilfrid Laurier; president, D. J. Thomas; first vice-president, H. Kay; second vice-president, P. Malone; secretary, D. Gourley; treasurer, C. H. Rummings; executive, D. McKinnell, W. Jones, H. Carroll, S. Mottishaw, Jr., T. Allan and T. Munroe. A motion was passed that a convention of the provincial Liberals be held at an early date.

The residence of W. McLellan, of the five-acre lots, together with part of the contents, was totally destroyed by fire late last night. The blaze was caused by a defective chimney. The loss is unknown.

WANTS MORE COAL. If Miners Do Not Keep Breakers Going Why Will Be Discharged.

Philadelphia, Pa., June 2.--President Baer, of the Reading Company, has issued orders that miners who will not extend enough coal to keep the breakers in operation nine hours a day are to be discharged. He says if the present system is kept up the company will be at least \$500,000 tons behind its output at the end of the year, beginning with April.

THE DREDGING OF VICTORIA HARBOR. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR WORK

Grand Trunk Pacific Bill Again Before Committee--Success of Sir W. Mulock's Scheme.

Ottawa, June 3.--The Liberal members with Mr. Keefe, resident engineer of British Columbia, by an interview with Hon. J. Sutherland and arranged for an additional new dredge for Vancouver, a snagboat for the Fraser river and additional dredging for Victoria. The dredger King Edward will be sent to Victoria not later than July. Grand Trunk Pacific.

The Grand Trunk bill was again talked over at committee to-day. A. G. Blair said that he was not of the same opinion as the Maritime province men, and believed that the road should go to the nearest seaport and not to Moncton, but he also did not look with favor on paralleling the Intercolonial. The motion made to commence construction in British Columbia and the eastern section at the same time was voted down by a large majority. An amendment by Mr. Sprule to commence on all sections east of Winnipeg simultaneously and an amendment to build to St. John instead of Moncton were both voted down, also by large majorities. When the hour of adjournment was reached Hon. R. Prefontaine gave notice of an amendment to secure connection between the road and Montreal.

Favorable. Sir William Mulock's efforts to bring about greater intimacy between Canada and other parts of the Empire by extending the distribution of Canadian newspapers continue to bear fruit. Sarawak, the Transvaal, Zanzibar, Gambia, Ceylon and British Honduras have just replied to a communication from the general note, all signifying their willingness to receive Canadian newspapers for distribution when these are posted in Canada at our domestic rates.

THE NEW BANK. Provisional Directors--Capital Stock Placed at \$2,000,000. Ottawa, June 2.--The provisional directors of the Pacific Bank of Canada are Wm. Postelwath, Wm. J. Heberington, Geo. C. Thompson, and Geo. Clay of Toronto, and A. G. Murray of Gore Bay, Ont. The capital stock is placed at \$2,000,000. The head offices of the bank will be at Victoria. Ralph Smith, M.P., is suffering from an attack of pleurisy. Alexander Fraser, a millionaire lumberman, died here yesterday, aged 76.

BRIDGE GAVE WAY. Twenty-Seven Workmen Reported to Have Been Drowned.

Kansas City, June 1.--A message to the Times from Karsaga City, Kan., by way of Leavenworth, at 2 o'clock this morning, says twenty-seven men at work on the Union Pacific bridge when it went down, were all drowned. It is stated that many persons saw the men drown-

MARTIN RESIGNS THE LEADERSHIP

LEFT IN ABEYANCE UNTIL AFTER ELECTION

No Liberal Convention to Be Called--Campaign Committee Have Been Appointed.

Vancouver, June 3.--"I hereby place my resignation as leader of the Liberal party in the hands of the provincial executive."

This was the announcement to-day which caused a sensation at the meeting of the executive of the Liberal Association of British Columbia. Mr. Martin's avowed reason was to promote harmony and avoid friction in the party throughout the province. He refused to discuss the matter further before leaving for Victoria by boat at 2 p.m.

John Oliver, Mr. Baxter and one or two others pulled very strongly for a convention, but were out-voted by the other members of the executive.

The plan, in brief, is that the party will go to the country without a provincial leader, and that no general convention will be called. The idea is that each riding hold a local convention, nominate candidates, and a caucus of the members elected will, after the election, choose a leader from amongst the elected members.

The meeting was pretty lively at times. Many local Liberals are much disappointed that no convention is called. They question the power of the executive to refuse a convention when it is requested by fourteen or fifteen associations, as is said to have been done.

The meeting was called at 11.30 a.m. Those present were as follows: Stuart Henderson, vice-president, in the chair; Wm. Sloan, T. S. Baxter, R. Hall, J. C. Brown, John Oliver, W. J. McMilligan, J. Jardine, Dr. Sinclair, H. G. Miller and Joseph Martin, by invitation, he not being a member of the executive.

It was decided that, looking to the imminence of the dissolution of the legislature and the short time available, it would be inadvisable to call a convention of the party, and Mr. Martin agreed with this view, and as there had been throughout the country a certain amount of feeling regarding the constitution of the last convention as not being representative, and as on that and other grounds the action of the convention in electing Mr. Martin as leader of the Liberal party had been challenged, Mr. Martin told the executive that the best course under the circumstances seemed to be for him to place his resignation in the hands of the executive and make that body, which is more representative of the Liberals of the province than any individual could be, responsible for immediate arrangements.

Mr. Martin immediately wrote his formal resignation as above quoted. It was moved and carried that Mr. Martin's voluntary resignation be accepted. It was resolved that an appeal be made to the Liberals of the province to fall into line, and work together for the purpose of bringing into power a Liberal government. The following campaign committee were named:

Vancouver Island--R. Hall, Wm. Sloan, and J. Jardine. Kootenay--Interior District Liberal Council, D. Ross, secretary. Lower Mainland--J. Martin, J. C. Brown, J. Oliver and W. J. McMillan. Middle Country--S. Henderson, H. G. Miller, M. P. Gordon, Robert Horland and D. Stoddart.

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