

BEFORE THE ELECTORS.

Hon. E. G. Prior Opens His Campaign with a Fine Meeting at Cedar Hill.

The Premier's Surprise at Victoria Unbelievers—What Might Happen Under Free Trade.

Local Grits Object to Steamship Subsidies—Hon. Dr. Helmcken's Convincing Address.

Cedar Hill voters opened the electoral campaign on Monday with the first of the series of public meetings to be held in the city and district. Mr. Frank Shear by unanimous invitation took the chair and opened the proceedings by a brief address in which he expressed his firm belief that the farmers of this district will without hesitation support Hon. E. G. Prior as a staunch defender of the policy of protection in the interest of agriculture in the district. (Applause.) He referred to the manifest attempt of the Liberals to conduct this campaign on a side issue of little if any importance to this province—that of the Manitoba schools, and expressed the hope that the electors would take a broader view, and by voting for the re-election of Col. Prior show that they appreciate the importance of having representation in the cabinet of the Dominion and will not lose the chance now presented to them. (Applause.) He called upon Hon. E. G. Prior for the first address.

Hon. E. G. Prior, rising amidst great applause, expressed the pleasure which he felt at seeing so many old friends amongst those present, and especially that of the old veteran the Hon. Dr. Helmcken (and applause), who, as on previous occasions, had been so kind as to come forward to exert the great influence he possesses on behalf of a supporter of the Liberal-Conservative government, and to express renewed confidence in the administration on this occasion of their having granted representation in the cabinet to British Columbia. (Applause.) He had thought, and no doubt so had most of those present, that when such representation was granted the man upon whom the honor was conferred would be turned by acclamation but the Liberals of Victoria having decided otherwise "if they want a fight a fight get." He noticed that the opposition persist in saying that he is not a cabinet minister (laughter) and that the Premier is merely trying to deceive the electors by his statements to the contrary, but in answer to this contention he read the already published correspondence, from the very beginning, showing that it was a seat in the cabinet that was offered to him, and that that and nothing else was what he accepted. He thought that in these telegrams no reasonable man could have any doubt. The opposition, however, still pretended to have evidence from Ottawa that the facts were not as stated, and even went so far as to print as a telegram from Ottawa a statement alleged to have been made by Dr. Bourinot—a high constitutional authority—that being a Controller he could not be a member of the Cabinet. In answer to this Dr. Bourinot had telegraphed that "no opinion whatever has emanated from him concerning the constitutional or any other aspect of proposed cabinet arrangements." (Hear, hear.) In addition to all the proof already produced that his position as a Cabinet Minister has been correctly stated, he would now read a telegram received so late as this afternoon from Sir Mackenzie Bowell, addressed to the Secretary of the Liberal Conservative Association in Victoria. Mr. Potts had wired asking the Premier to state whether Col. Prior is a member of the Cabinet, and whether he has a voice and a vote in it, and this was the answer he got:

Ottawa, Dec. 23. "A. Stewart Potts, Secretary Liberal Conservative Association, Victoria: "Yes, vote and voice in cabinet and council equal with mine. See telegram to Prior. Surprised doubt exists after many affirmative answers given these questions."

MACKENZIE BOWELL. (Great applause.) Such being the case, he felt he could speak to the electors as a member of the cabinet, asking them to re-elect him and not throw away the chance now presented of representation in the cabinet.

Mr. Bass—No you have not. Col. Prior—"Mr. Chairman, there were several of our friends from town who came in late, including Mr. Marchant and Mr. Munn, and I would like to read that telegram again." (Reads Premier Bowell's message to Secretary Potts.) Mr. Bass—"How could you get it when the wires were down?" Col. Prior—"Well, I did get it (laughter); here it is, read it yourself." (The message was passed round to the select knot of Liberals, who eagerly scanned it with the exception of Mr. Marchant, who declared—"I won't read it; I unhesitatingly take your word.") Respecting the Manitoba school question, Col. Prior expressed himself as perfectly willing to "throw out all an platform, and to show the electors that Dominion ministers are concerned there is no coercion about it. They are simply carrying out the law as laid down by Manitoba's own acts and according to the judgment of the privy council in England that the Roman Catholics in Manitoba have the right to have a separate school system. Would it not, he asked, be shameful to take no notice of that appeal; and would any government be so cowardly as to refuse to do justice to the appellants after they had established their case? He said that to refuse would be shameful. He had heard it said that while this may be the law it is a very bad law; but there are hundreds of laws of which the same might be said, yet while they remain on the statute books the government have to carry them out. He read from the Manitoba act the section declaring that in such a case as has been established "an appeal shall lie" to the Governor-General-in-Council, and recalled the facts leading up to the appeal,

interfered with for a long time to come. (Laughter and applause.) He read extracts from the English press showing what have been some of the effects of free trade in England, dealing specially with the town of Leeds, from which he came, and where not one single workman owns his own home. He quoted from the recent speech of Lord Salisbury the declaration that the greatest evil that has befallen Great Britain now has to do with the fearful condition of agriculture in the United Kingdom, and besought the farmers of British Columbia if they wish under similar conditions to be brought to the same pitiable condition, exposed to the competition of the whole world.

Mr. D. Ross (also of the Times)—"Why do you subsidize the China steamers?" (Great laughter.) Col. Prior said it was evident his questioner has not gone very deeply into political economy. He might mention that one of the reasons why the steamers are subsidized is that we want to sell to China, to secure for Canada a share of the great trade which may be done with her. On the other hand, we do not want the products of Chinese cheap labor to come unduly into competition with our home products and manufactures, and therefore a measure of protection certain duties are imposed. He pointed out that the Chinese are rapidly introducing machinery from other countries and thus year by year placing themselves in a position to compete in the markets of the world. There are those who are so firm in their refusal to let Canadian products in free, but under free trade would, as before 1878, make the Canadian market the dumping place for the over-production of their factories. As to the position of affairs in England, he showed that in that free trade country there are that many burdensome taxes altogether unknown here. For instance for the year 1893—the last report at hand—the total customs taxation was \$98,000,000; out of this tobacco paid \$50,000,000; tea, which comes free into Canada, paid in England \$16,995,000; coffee, which pays a cent of duty in Canada, paid \$855,000 in England. (Applause.) He gave a further illustration of what might be expected under "free-trade as they have it in England," in the story of a tradesman named Langdon, summoned before a magistrate for keeping a carriage without a license. In evidence he stated that this was his goods delivery wagon, but on the other hand it was alleged that he had been seen driving in it in the company of his wife who could not be classed as goods. (Laughter.) Langdon explained that his wife had to go with him because she took the measures for his customers, but even this excuse did not save him; the magistrate remarked that the law is very strict in its terms and advised him to get a license if he wanted to take his wife out with him, and in the meantime fined him \$3 and 2 shillings costs. "Then I can't take my own wife without a license," the victim exclaimed, and the magistrate answered "No." (Great laughter.) Col. Prior read also from Temple Bar a statement showing that one-ninth of the whole earnings of the people in England goes for taxes. He asks how that compares with Canada.

Mr. Bass (the little man at the rear)—"The Liberals won't tax us to support boodlers." Col. Prior did not feel so sure of this, after what poor old Alexander Mackenzie has written about having to stay on watch with a shotgun to keep his political followers, the Liberals, from the public treasury, while to this day at the mention of a good fat office the eyes of the average Liberal stick out like raisins in a pudding. (Laughter.) He showed that the Liberals when in office constantly added to the customs taxation, yet every year they had a deficit. The trade as well as on other important questions they had no policy. They are ready to say or do anything that their party may get them into office. (Applause.) While they talk so glibly about boodles in the government Mr. Laurier is going round with one of the biggest boodlers in Canada for his chief companion.

Mr. Bass—He was a Conservative. Col. Prior—Yes, but I can tell you he is not a Conservative now. (Laughter and applause.) Mercier was not a Conservative, and his colleague, Jimmy McShane, who is now Mr. Laurier's candidate in Montreal Centre, has never had that honor either. (Applause and laughter.) He instanced in contrast to Liberal professions the fact that from 1874 to 1895 there were 98 Liberals and only 48 Conservatives unseated for corrupt practices, and eight Liberals were disqualified, against only one Conservative. (Applause.) He would not dwell further on this subject, but would put to them the simple question, "Are you going to elect a man to support Mr. Laurier, or one to support the government of the day, who have done justice to British Columbia by honoring me with a seat in the cabinet?"

Mr. Bass—"No you have not." Col. Prior—"Mr. Chairman, there were several of our friends from town who came in late, including Mr. Marchant and Mr. Munn, and I would like to read that telegram again." (Reads Premier Bowell's message to Secretary Potts.) Mr. Bass—"How could you get it when the wires were down?" Col. Prior—"Well, I did get it (laughter); here it is, read it yourself." (The message was passed round to the select knot of Liberals, who eagerly scanned it with the exception of Mr. Marchant, who declared—"I won't read it; I unhesitatingly take your word.") Respecting the Manitoba school question, Col. Prior expressed himself as perfectly willing to "throw out all an platform, and to show the electors that Dominion ministers are concerned there is no coercion about it. They are simply carrying out the law as laid down by Manitoba's own acts and according to the judgment of the privy council in England that the Roman Catholics in Manitoba have the right to have a separate school system. Would it not, he asked, be shameful to take no notice of that appeal; and would any government be so cowardly as to refuse to do justice to the appellants after they had established their case? He said that to refuse would be shameful. He had heard it said that while this may be the law it is a very bad law; but there are hundreds of laws of which the same might be said, yet while they remain on the statute books the government have to carry them out. He read from the Manitoba act the section declaring that in such a case as has been established "an appeal shall lie" to the Governor-General-in-Council, and recalled the facts leading up to the appeal,

from the passage of the Manitoba act of 1890, abolishing the schools which previously the Catholics and the Protestants carried on separately, with state aid to both, and establishing one system of non-sectarian schools. He asked his audience to remember that the Roman Catholics maintain that with religion cannot be properly given without religion in it, and that they had acquired by provincial statute the right to schools for their own children in which religion was taught. They appealed the case through all the courts to the privy council in England, who in their judgment said: "The whole question to be determined is whether a right or privilege which the Roman Catholic minority previously enjoyed has been affected by the legislation of 1890. Their Lordships are unable to see how this question can receive any but an affirmative answer." The "Their Lordships have decided that the Governor-General in Council has jurisdiction and that the appeal is well founded, but the particular course to be pursued must be determined by the authorities to whom it has been committed by this tribunal. It is not for this tribunal to intimate the precise steps to be taken. Their general character is sufficiently defined by the 3rd sub-section of section 22 of the Manitoba act.

"It is certainly not essential that the statutes repealed by the act of 1890 should be repealed, or that the precise provisions of these statutes should again be made law. The system of education embodied in the acts of 1890 no doubt commends itself to and adequately supplies the wants of the great majority of the inhabitants of the province, and legitimate grounds of complaint would be shown if that system were supplanted by provisions which would remove the grievance upon which the appeal is founded and were modified as far as might be necessary to give effect to these provisions." He asked where "coercion" can be said to come in giving effect to the findings of the judgment he had quoted; or if in every day life it would be called coercion, after a man had successfully fought a suit through the courts, for steps to be taken to carry out the judgment given in his favor. (Applause.) As soon as the great Conservative speaker showed that he was not strong enough to uphold the right of any man, be he Catholic or Protestant or Pagan, in any province of the Dominion, the sooner it steps out of office the better. If the constitution may be violated in one respect, it may in another, and he asked the electors to remember how strenuously they had insisted upon the terms of union being carried out in the case of this province—in the matter, for instance, of the mail subsidy to the San Francisco mail steamers. He took the stand that whether the minority in Manitoba Protestants or Catholics, had the right of appeal they must be heard. He felt perfectly certain that the present government will never bring in a bill to give separate schools again as they existed before 1890. Being now a member of the cabinet, he brought in the bill and he would not say just what it will be.

Mr. Ross—How can you support it then? Col. Prior answered that it is the government he is supporting, and he has every confidence that they will do what is right. He said that if they oppose them when he finds them going wrong. (Applause.) He continued that he felt certain that whatever bill is brought in the government will demand that the schools be under control of the province; that all schools, whether Catholic or Protestant, should have the same standard of efficiency; and that the teachers shall be obliged to pass the same examinations. This was not the case in the schools in existence before 1890. He considered that it is not the Dominion government that will be asked to do this, but rather the province in Manitoba, and to coerce the minority. When people say that what is Manitoba's trouble to-day may be British Columbia's to-morrow, they state what they should know is impossible, for there is nothing in our terms of union that gives the Dominion government the right to do this. He said that clause 95 of the act applied to this province in respect to education. He saw no reason why this Manitoba school question should have been brought into politics at all. He felt satisfied that when the government introduces a bill that will give separate schools, he will be found opposing it. He said his reason will be that it does not go far enough to suit him as a Catholic. In conclusion he would again ask them to back up the government by returning him with a very large majority, so that he might go back to Ottawa and represent the whole of British Columbia in the Dominion Cabinet. (Great applause.)

Mr. Thos. Earle, M.P., expressed the pleasure it gave him to witness the enthusiasm with which his colleague had been received, an evidence of approval of the course of the Dominion government in getting the Manitoba question to British Columbia. It was a matter of surprise to him that now, when the first opportunity has presented itself to secure this representation, the Liberals should rise up, as if once to oppose it, notwithstanding that the general election is only a few months away. As to the school question, the course of the government he considered to be the only just one they could take, and if the government have not the courage to do what is right, they should either step down and out or be passed out. He said that the school question should be the issue in this contest, which is rather to determine whether or not the people of this constituency want to have British Columbia represented in the cabinet. He felt satisfied that the electors of this portion of the district are in unison in support of the action of the government in offering this cabinet representation and of the action of Col. Prior in accepting it. (Applause.) He hoped that when the 6th of January comes the electors will make this as plain by their votes as they have made it by their words. He doubted, after the experience of the past few days, whether the Liberals can be convinced of anything, but felt that if they are at all open to conviction they will realize after election day that their chances for success in this district will be very slim for some time to come. While the trade question has been discussed from the first by the Conservatives in the same way, the Liberals have constantly shifted their ground, and in this as in the school question no one knows where Mr. Laurier now stands.

After six years' experience with him in parliament he could say how indefinitely Col. Prior has worked for his constituents day in and day out, there being few more diligent men in the house. When in the cabinet he will have much greater influence and opportunities, and will no doubt be found willing to do for British Columbia the utmost in his power. (Applause.)

Hon. Dr. Helmcken being next called on asked to be excused from talking much, having a bad cold. He was there simply as an elector, one of the people themselves. When of the gentleman tells one, he said, in a letter with his signature attached, that he will do a certain thing, I believe that man; his word, his autograph, is his bond. Sir Mackenzie Bowell has written, offering distinctly to Mr. Prior a seat in the cabinet. I have full confidence that he will do as he states and fulfill what he has promised. Mr. Prior, after election, goes to Ottawa the position will be given him after he has taken the usual oaths of office, or official oaths. To doubt this is showing dishonorable distrust and entirely unworthy of an ordinary gentleman. Such doubt no one should allow to get into his mind. Yet we find the opposition cavilling and asserting that Mr. Bowell, the Premier, holding the highest position in the Dominion, is only deceiving and is unable to redeem his promise. It is this way to speak of such a man? Virtually it is saying that the man occupying this exalted position a knave. Would this be tolerated in private life? Assuredly not. Ordinary honesty and morality must be at a very low ebb if the public tolerate such assertions against the chief man in the country. For my part I have full confidence that Mr. Bowell will fulfill his offer and promise as soon as Mr. Prior goes to Ottawa as your elected representative. Elected he undoubtedly will be, for our self-interest and respect chimes in with the proposal. What do the opposition suggest? Only what will Mr. Laurier occupy Mr. Bowell's position and then will put one of the British Columbia members in office. (Laughter.) Well, I think it will be a precious long time before Mr. Laurier occupies Mr. Bowell's position, and to my mind a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. (Applause.) He would not utter for to throw away the present positive gain for the remote chance of getting the same thing a long time hereafter. Col. Prior's opponent is merely acting the part of the dog in the manger. The Manitoba school question really has little if anything to do with the matter. I have said already that when an honorable man gives his bond, no one doubts that the bond will be fulfilled. So with Manitoba. If a bond exists entitling some one religious persuasion to privileges, that agreement must be kept. Justice must be had, and the hand of justice the government will propose no one at present knows, therefore not having anything at all definite to discuss, the problem will be irritating to many and cause considerable religious or sectarian animosity of the most violent kind, and spreading kindred. We are not mad enough yet on this subject to fight shadows or see an enemy in every bush. It is in the power of the people of Manitoba to settle this matter themselves and thus save a religious war of words, and it is to be hoped that will be the result. The question is not at all likely to be settled by the present session, it being too good a thing for self-seeking politicians to gamble with—but truth will prevail in the end, and will come out in the debates in Dominion parliament. There must be a new general election within the next few months, then the thing that is not at all clear now will be made clear by the declarations of the government. The national policy, too, must come before you a few months hence, and then you will have to decide what system is suitable to your own interests, for after all it is a question of self-interest or self-sacrifice. Moreover, I spoke here some four years ago on this matter, when Mr. Templeman and Mr. Marchant spoke rapturously of free trade—the freest description.

Mr. Marchant here asked leave to explain that he did not favor free trade, but rather unrestricted reciprocity; and that though he has often written up free trade as a thing for England he has not advocated it for Canada. His ideal now is a revenue tariff.

Hon. Dr. Helmcken said he had done Mr. Marchant the honor of reading his letters and had come to the conclusion that they meant free trade. It was no doubt exceedingly convenient for the gentleman to report to the farmers of this district that he did not mean free trade at all. (Laughter.) His recollection was that at last election free trade was the cry. In conclusion he would say, if the farmers of Victoria want to see all kinds of food and goods come in free, let them vote for the free trade candidate, and they will be sacrificing themselves for nothing. If they wish to prosper and make a living every man of them should vote for protection to native industries. Having wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, he sat down amidst immense applause.

Mr. H. D. Helmcken, C. C. M. P. F., was next called for, and very cordially received. He left it an honor, he said, to follow his venerable father in support of the candidature of Col. Prior. He considered, as had been already said, that the only question to be decided now is whether or not we want a representation in the Cabinet, and this being the case he proceeded to point out the absurdity of the contention that Col. Prior's position is not that of a cabinet minister with authority equal to any of them. He dealt with the assertion made that Mr. Wood and Col. Prior are promised things that they "will be cabinet ministers, and showed that the only reason the future tense is used is that until he goes to Ottawa Col. Prior cannot be sworn in.

The old quibble about the impossibility of a controller being a cabinet minister was here brought forward by Mr. H. D. Helmcken, who wanted Mr. Helmcken to "stake his legal reputation" on the subject. Mr. Helmcken laughingly objected to being brought to the stake at all just now, and Mr. Earle referred the question to the legal lights on the opposition side, who at the recent meeting were wisely silent on this point. Mr. Bass further argued the point with Mr. Helmcken, who as their interpretations of the statutes differ modestly refrained from stating whether his or Mr. Bass's should be taken in preference. Mr. Helmcken had some confidence, however, in the constitutional

advisers the Premier has at his elbow; and, anyhow, if such a question can be raised, he thought it ill-became the people of Victoria to raise it when they now get the cabinet representation they have so long sought for. He wished to say here that, strange as it may seem, he had heard it argued on the street that if Mr. Templeman is elected he will be a cabinet minister. (Laughter.) Absurd as this sounded, it is as well to put people on their guard, and to tell them that the question for them to decide is whether they will have Col. Prior for a minister or have no minister at all. (Applause.)

Mr. Grant wanted to know how it was that Col. Prior did not get Mr. Angers' portfolio, and in reply the Colonel explained to him that Quebec is supposed to have four ministers, and no Premier would brave popular wrath by cutting down the number. Then Mr. Ross, of the Times, demanded again, "What is your portfolio," and when he was answered, Mr. Bass, of the Times, once more put in the argument that a controller cannot be cabinet minister. Col. Prior then patiently explained that as a member of parliament he could be made a privy councillor, that from privy councillor a cabinet minister is the regular routine, and that the Premier having taken him into the cabinet without a portfolio has a perfect right to make him a controller if he is so inclined. There is no law to prevent this; but if there were, until the matter could be right he would be perfectly willing to stay at Ottawa and serve as a cabinet minister without any salary. He did not think, however, that anyone in British Columbia would begrudge a minister \$5,000 a year for the work he has to do.

Mr. Munn further argued the point, and the meeting becoming tired voted its thanks to the chairman and departed.

MUNICIPAL REFORM.

For some time a movement has been in progress for the formation of an association to be known as the Victoria Municipal Reform Association, the object of which, as briefly set out in the constitution adopted at a meeting yesterday, is "to promote generally the good government of the city and the welfare and prosperity of the citizens thereof." The entrance fee is fixed at \$5, with an annual subscription of \$4, and the executive will consist of a committee of fifteen. Among other things, the committee may undertake the settlement of any dispute submitted to their decision by the appointment of arbitrators, and it is contemplated that legal action may be taken to defend any representative case affecting any of the members in civic matters which come under the scope set out in the object of the association. Mr. D. R. Harris presided at yesterday's meeting and the constitution and by-laws were adopted. It was not thought advisable, however, to select the executive committee then, as it was believed that the members of the association would be generally aware of the existence of the movement, so that those ratepayers who desire to join may have a voice in the election of officers. It may be stated, however, that there is no intention this year of the Association taking part in the municipal elections, the organization not yet being complete enough for such a step. The members of the Association already number fifty, and a committee composed of Messrs. E. W. Pearce, Charles Hayward, Dennis R. Harris, and F. Elworthy was appointed yesterday to receive applications for membership. The election of the committee and officers will be held on Monday next at 4 o'clock in the Adelphi hall.

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Mr. Robert Dudgeon, proprietor of the Cliff house, Glover Point, has made application to the Marine department to be supplied with a rocket relief apparatus for use at the Point, believing that such an appliance would be the means of saving many lives as the years go by. The wreck of the Velox is referred to as a case in point, where the rocket could have been used to great advantage. Mr. Dudgeon thoroughly understands the handling of shore rockets, and his offer is to take charge of and use the outfit as occasion may demand, free of charge for a period of five years. A life boat would be useless to rely upon at Glover Point; the rocket, it is believed, would work well and accomplish its mission of saving lives which could not be saved in any other way.

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Mr. Grant wanted to know how it was that Col. Prior did not get Mr. Angers' portfolio, and in reply the Colonel explained to him that Quebec is supposed to have four ministers, and no Premier would brave popular wrath by cutting down the number. Then Mr. Ross, of the Times, demanded again, "What is your portfolio," and when he was answered, Mr. Bass, of the Times, once more put in the argument that a controller cannot be cabinet minister. Col. Prior then patiently explained that as a member of parliament he could be made a privy councillor, that from privy councillor a cabinet minister is the regular routine, and that the Premier having taken him into the cabinet without a portfolio has a perfect right to make him a controller if he is so inclined. There is no law to prevent this; but if there were, until the matter could be right he would be perfectly willing to stay at Ottawa and serve as a cabinet minister without any salary. He did not think, however, that anyone in British Columbia would begrudge a minister \$5,000 a year for the work he has to do.

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MUNICIPAL REFORM.

For some time a movement has been in progress for the formation of an association to be known as the Victoria Municipal Reform Association, the object of which, as briefly set out in the constitution adopted at a meeting yesterday, is "to promote generally the good government of the city and the welfare and prosperity of the citizens thereof." The entrance fee is fixed at \$5, with an annual subscription of \$4, and the executive will consist of a committee of fifteen. Among other things, the committee may undertake the settlement of any dispute submitted to their decision by the appointment of arbitrators, and it is contemplated that legal action may be taken to defend any representative case affecting any of the members in civic matters which come under the scope set out in the object of the association. Mr. D. R. Harris presided at yesterday's meeting and the constitution and by-laws were adopted. It was not thought advisable, however, to select the executive committee then, as it was believed that the members of the association would be generally aware of the existence of the movement, so that those ratepayers who desire to join may have a voice in the election of officers. It may be stated, however, that there is no intention this year of the Association taking part in the municipal elections, the organization not yet being complete enough for such a step. The members of the Association already number fifty, and a committee composed of Messrs. E. W. Pearce, Charles Hayward, Dennis R. Harris, and F. Elworthy was appointed yesterday to receive applications for membership. The election of the committee and officers will be held on Monday next at 4 o'clock in the Adelphi hall.

Mr. Robert Dudgeon, proprietor of the Cliff house, Glover Point, has made application to the Marine department to be supplied with a rocket relief apparatus for use at the Point, believing that such an appliance would be the means of saving many lives as the years go by. The wreck of the Velox is referred to as a case in point, where the rocket could have been used to great advantage. Mr. Dudgeon thoroughly understands the handling of shore rockets, and his offer is to take charge of and use the outfit as occasion may demand, free of charge for a period of five years. A life boat would be useless to rely upon at Glover Point; the rocket, it is believed, would work well and accomplish its mission of saving lives which could not be saved in any other way.

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Mr. H. D. Helmcken, C. C. M. P. F., was next called for, and very cordially received. He left it an honor, he said, to follow his venerable father in support of the candidature of Col. Prior. He considered, as had been already said, that the only question to be decided now is whether or not we want a representation in the Cabinet, and this being the case he proceeded to point out the absurdity of the contention that Col. Prior's position is not that of a cabinet minister with authority equal to any of them. He dealt with the assertion made that Mr. Wood and Col. Prior are promised things that they "will be cabinet ministers, and showed that the only reason the future tense is used is that until he goes to Ottawa Col. Prior cannot be sworn in.

The old quibble about the impossibility of a controller being a cabinet minister was here brought forward by Mr. H. D. Helmcken, who wanted Mr. Helmcken to "stake his legal reputation" on the subject. Mr. Helmcken laughingly objected to being brought to the stake at all just now, and Mr. Earle referred the question to the legal lights on the opposition side, who at the recent meeting were wisely silent on this point. Mr. Bass further argued the point with Mr. Helmcken, who as their interpretations of the statutes differ modestly refrained from stating whether his or Mr. Bass's should be taken in preference. Mr. Helmcken had some confidence, however, in the constitutional

advisers the Premier has at his elbow; and, anyhow, if such a question can be raised, he thought it ill-became the people of Victoria to raise it when they now get the cabinet representation they have so long sought for. He wished to say here that, strange as it may seem, he had heard it argued on the street that if Mr. Templeman is elected he will be a cabinet minister. (Laughter.) Absurd as this sounded, it is as well to put people on their guard, and to tell them that the question for them to decide is whether they will have Col. Prior for a minister or have no minister at all. (Applause.)

Mr. Grant wanted to know how it was that Col. Prior did not get Mr. Angers' portfolio, and in reply the Colonel explained to him that Quebec is supposed to have four ministers, and no Premier would brave popular wrath by cutting down the number. Then Mr. Ross, of the Times, demanded again, "What is your portfolio," and when he was answered, Mr. Bass, of the Times, once more put in the argument that a controller cannot be cabinet minister. Col. Prior then patiently explained that as a member of parliament he could be made a privy councillor, that from privy councillor a cabinet minister is the regular routine, and that the Premier having taken him into the cabinet without a portfolio has a perfect right to make him a controller if he is so inclined. There is no law to prevent this; but if there were, until the matter could be right he would be perfectly willing to stay at Ottawa and serve as a cabinet minister without any salary. He did not think, however, that anyone in British Columbia would begrudge a minister \$5,000 a year for the work he has to do.

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WORTH A GUINEA A BOX BEECHAM'S PILLS TASTELESS—EFFECTUAL FOR A DISORDERED LIVER. 25 CENTS A BOX. Tablets directed three famous Pills will prove marvelous restoratives to all ailing by the above or kindred diseases.

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S. A. STODDART, 68 1/2 YATES STREET, VICTORIA, B.C.

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Games and Toy Books. We have just received a large consignment of McLaughlan's Games and Toy Books.

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