GOVERNOR HAS ASSENTED TO BILL

Measure Ratified This Afternoon---An Adjournment Until Special Committee Completes Its Labors.

(From Monday's Daily.)

His Honor the Lieut.-Governor has at last given his assent to bill 16, thus saving to the province the six hundred thousand acres which have been repeatedly attempted to be conveyed to the Columbia & Western railway.

On the assembling of the House this afternoon His Honor entered the chamber and formally ratified this measure, together with a number of others.

The announcement was received with demonstrations of applause.

Following this came a short brush between Messrs. Curtis and Eberts, in which the latter denied his statement in the House a few days ago that Mr. Curtis wrote editorials for the Rossland Miner.

Then the Premier arose. He said that the government was most anxious to obtain all the evidence in connection with the matter now before the special committee, and that they thought best to adjourn for one week.

Mr. Green—"Here, here."

Continuing, the Premier said it was a very serious matter, and the country, as well as the House, wanted everything brought out that was connected with the issuance or rather the drawing up of the grants. Some statements had been made referring to members of this House, and where none were specified the reflection was on all. He would therefore move that the House at this rising should stand adjourned for one week, until 2 o'clock on Monday next.

The leader of the opposition, who followed, thoroughly endorsed the motion of the First Minister on behalf of the body he represents. The opposition, he said, wanted the fullest examination into all the data regarding the matter before the committee. He thought their common desires in the matter would be best served by the motion before the House.

Then Mr. Hawthornthwaite threw in a bomb. He asked if the government intended to bring Sir Thomas Shaughnessy and other officials of the C. P. R. here to give evidence. He had heard that this move was another deal of the cards to fix up an arrangement with the Conservative party.

Mr. Green, opposition whip, disclaimed altogether such a suggestion as that just made. As a member of the special committee he believed both the First Minister and the leader of the opposition were quite sincere in their statements. He observed, however, that the investigation had now got beyond the point where it could be carried on by Mr. Oliver, who had acted as prosecutor in the matter, and he asked that counsel be retained on both sides, to be paid for by the government.

The Premier said that he had considered the presence of Messrs. Helmcken and McPhillips, one on each side of the case as members of the committee, sufficient to bring out the evidence, but if it was thought that the bottom of the matter could be reached more fully by employing independent counsel the government had no objection.

Mr. Green pointed out that the members of the committee were acting in the capacity of judges.

Mr. Oliver, who followed, said he held it to be his duty to make certain charges, but he now thought counsel should be appointed to probe the matter to its very base. The very best counsel should be obtained, for it was very evident that if any wrong was done that there were two parties to it, and it was in the interests of both that the truth should now be brought out. He hoped the government would provide for the expense.

The Premier replied that the government were willing to defray the expenses and leave the committee to say who the counsel should be.

Mr. Gilmour suggested the extending the time of adjournment to two weeks.

Mr. Houston counselled the Premier to go on with the budget, pass the estimate and then ask for dissolution. Anyway it was up to the people. They were the court of last resort, and would single out the guilty parties from the innocent. He asked if it was a good thing to stir such a matter as they have in Ontario.

After some further discussion the motion to adjourn for one week carried, members to be notified if an extension is necessary. The government will defray the expense of counsel, Mr. Oliver to select that for the prosecution.

The expose of Saturday before the special committee of the House by Mr. Dunsmuir is the sole topic of conversation among the politicians to-day, and the members were busy caucusing this morning on the situation which it involves. The impression seems to be general that the Premier can no longer retain the Attorney-General in his cabinet, and that the resignation of the Attorney-General may be looked for at any minute. Those in the confidence of the First Minister claim that he is not the type of man to allow himself to be pulled down by ministers in whom the country has lost confidence.

In the meantime everyone is clamoring for a thorough investigation of the whole facts. The statement that two members of the House were concerned in the deal, which is attributed to Mr. Eberts's law partner, has cast a stigma upon the whole House, which only the designation of the two offending members can remove.

Rightly or wrongly, the suspicion exists that the revelations made are only a foretaste of what is to come, if the facts are all brought out, and the temper of the House and country is such that they will be satisfied with nothing less.

The presence in the city to-day of the chief detective of the C.P.R. is by some coupled with the local political situation.

On Saturday night an angry altercation took place between Mr. Taylor, Mr. Eberts's partner, and Mr. Curtis at the latter's hotel, when the bulky forms of Messrs. Garden and Fulton had to be intervened to prevent trouble.

ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Sunday School Gathering Tuesday Evening at the Metropolitan Methodist Church.

The Victoria District Sunday School Association convention will open to-morrow evening at the Metropolitan Methodist schoolroom, and will be continued on Wednesday evening. There will be no delegates from other parts of the province, the convention being strictly of the city schools.

After the usual evening services at the Metropolitan Methodist church yesterday evening a rally of the teachers and officers of the different Sunday schools was held as a preliminary to the convention which is to take place this week. There was a good attendance, and H. J. Knott occupied the chair. A short service of song and prayer was first held, after which the Rev. J. F. Vichert was called upon for a few words. He announced that his conviction was that the programme as drafted for the convention would not bring about any great improvement in the results of Sunday school work. The history of the Sunday school was traced briefly. Years ago there was no such institution; now it was generally conceded to be the most important branch of the work of the church, so much so that wherever there was a church a school was found, and many were established where there was no church. On account of the importance of the work every effort had been made to improve the methods of imparting Biblical knowledge to the children. This had occupied the attention of the brightest men, and the system was now almost perfect. In spite of all this, the speaker held that the practical results were scarcely any better than when there was no system. His conviction was that the Spirit of God was lacking. What was wanted was evangelization. This he thought should be made a feature of the forthcoming convention.

Barber—"Have an egg-shampoo, sir?"
Victim—"Wow! I should say not!"
Barber—"Beg pardon, sir. I didn't know you were an actor."

NEGOTIATING DEALS.

One Affecting Transfer of Timber and Other Mineral Property.

Two big deals affecting the interests of residents here are now on the tapis, and may, it is said, be carried to a successful issue Monday. John Black, of this city, who is negotiating both deals, left for Seattle Monday evening to complete arrangements. He is representing both timber and mining interests, and before his return to Victoria expects to place in the hands of a company some extensive copper properties. The claims referred to are situated on the west coast of the Island, and are described as exceedingly rich. When last in Seattle, a few weeks ago, Mr. Black stated in an interview with the Seattle Post-Intelligencer that "it was not improbable that in the near future a syndicate of English capitalists, who have all the money necessary to float the project, will erect a rolling mill on Vancouver Island and work the iron deposits there to their full capacity. They are thinking seriously of it, but, like English capital, they are slow in starting, but when they have a pound invested in a property they are free to spend all that is necessary to develop it properly. There is a market on the coast at the present time for the product of a rolling mill. Not only is the market on the coast, but in the Orient, and if the plant I speak of is constructed there will be a boom in iron properties on the Island."

Until Mr. Black's return to the city little can be said regarding the two deals referred to. That for the disposal of certain timber rights is said to have already gone through, with the result, according to report, that a large mill will in the very near future be erected on this Island. The purchasers are a syndicate of Chicago and other Eastern capitalists.

POSTMASTER IMPRISONED.

Manila, May 4.—O. G. Milne, postmaster of Taiclobia, island of Leyte, who was recently convicted of misappropriating government funds, has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

BECOMES MORE SERIOUS.

Turks Discussing a General Massacre of Christians—Will Send Ultimatum to Bulgaria.

London, May 4.—Owing to the existing censorship it is still impossible to obtain reliable news from Salonica. The reports of a general massacre are not confirmed. It is said Turkey has decided to send an ultimatum to Bulgaria. Two Italian warships have arrived at Salonica and the Porte, fearing that foreign troops will be landed, has requested Austria to withdraw her squadron.

It is reported from Uskub, European Turkey, that the Turks are holding meetings in the mosques and discussing a general massacre of the Christian population in the event of dynamite outrages which, according to prisoners arrested in Salonica, have been planned to occur at Constantinople, Uskub and Adrianople. Albanians have plundered several Servian villages near Prisen, Turkey. The Turkish troops made no attempt to hinder them.

WILL RECOMMEND NO AMENDMENTS

MINING COMMITTEE WANT THEM DELAYED

Decision in Favor of Leaving Placer Act As It Is for This Session.

Monday the mining committee of the legislature met and listened to the representations made to it by John Keen and D. W. Higgins, president and vice-president of the Provincial Mining Association. The question of crown granting placer claims was freely discussed. Several of the members of the committee showed a disposition in favor of crown granting claims.

It was finally decided to recommend to the government that they do not take any action in the way of amending the placer mining act this year, instead the proposed amendments should be circulated in the placer mining districts and that the views of those interested should then be obtained before the next session of the legislature.

In opposing the crown granting of placer claims Jos. Hunter said he never knew an instance of money being withheld on account of the lack of title. He believed the people of Cariboo would back him in this. Some men wanted a crown grant so that they could sit down for all eternity and look at the land and keep it locked up.

They would have to pay taxes, said Mr. Clifford.

Mr. Hunter contended that there was no necessity for there being a tax. The legislature might take this off.

Other members of the committee combatted the logic of taxes being removed by the legislature. It might as well be said the government would remove taxes from lands.

Mr. Hunter further contended that they should not make laws for the "grafters" and speculators.

Mr. Dunsmuir said that the "grafters" could get in under the crown grants just as well as under the lease system.

Mr. Rogers said he knew that country. There were men there to oppose anything he advocated, but at the polls these proved not to be very large in numbers. There had been 50 crown grants given under the old system. Of these 37 had been worked. Taxes were put on, and those who were not working their land and were away from the country allowed the land to lapse to the crown again.

W. T. Paterson said that there was a mining association which had just been organized and which was now strong enough to have the government remove the 2 per cent. tax. If it was strong enough for that it would soon be strong enough to have taxes taken off crown granted placer claims if these were given.

Mr. Clifford thought this was borrowing trouble. If in twenty years the association represented a sufficient number to carry this out they had a right to do so.

John Keen said that if the province was opening their country to the world and asking them to come in and invest their money, then these men had a right to say something as to the condition upon which they should invest their money. The present system was not agreeable to investors. To benefit the country they should adopt other plans.

J. Stables was in doubt after attending all the meetings of the Mining Association as to whether it was in the interests of the country to give crown grants for placer claims or not. As far as he could learn from his district they were opposed to crown grants. They thought that a better title could be given then under the present 20-year lease; but were not agreeable to crown granting.

The delegation from the Mining Association having withdrawn the committee discussed the standing of the Provincial Mining Association. Some of them contended the association was formed for the great purpose of gaining of crown grants to placer mining claims. Finally it was decided to take the step referred to previously.

John Houston's petroleum bill came up for discussion also.

Mr. Watts appeared before the committee and spoke against the limiting of oil claims to 1,500 feet square. He had intended going to Graham Island to prospect for oil if he could arrange to have the reserve taken off. The limiting of oil claims to that intended by this bill would keep prospectors out. Oil prospecting was a risky business, and a man had often to move his apparatus long distances before he struck the oil. In the Northwest Territory Dr. Dawson, for the Dominion government, has failed to locate oil and now the government gave 640 acre prospects. It should not be less in British Columbia. With a small claim the result would be that if a man did drill others would stake the ground all around him and watch the result. If the drilling failed the man would have to buy a claim from them. If he succeeded they would reap the benefit.

John Houston held that the Mineral Mining Act seemed to be a good one. The Provincial Mining Association did not find much fault with it. In the United States the oil claims were only 20 acres. His object was to save the lands from monopolists.

The subject was discussed to some length, after which an adjournment was taken.

BURIALS THURSDAY.

The funeral of the late Capt. Alfred Bodley took place from the parlors of the B. C. Funeral Furnishing Co. yesterday afternoon. The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Capt. McLeod, Capt. Townsend, Capt. W. J. Whitley, Capt. McCoskrie, Messrs. J. Wallace, T. Moffat, W. L. Gilchrist, G. Wallace.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Sophia Lissett took place from her late residence yesterday afternoon, at 2.30. Both the services at the residence and grave were conducted by the Right Rev. Bishop Cridge. There were many floral designs given by friends, and there was a large attendance at both services. The following gentlemen acted as pallbearers: Messrs. S. Reid, J. H. Meldram, T. Booz, W. McDowell, A. Jack, E. E. Robinson.

The Gravest Danger.

The Present Generation Has to Face Is Dyspepsia—Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets Invariably Cure It.

Dyspepsia is the gravest danger the present generation has to face. Not only does it carry misery in its train, but it so weakens the body that it is unable to resist disease and consequently all contagious and infectious complaints find a ready foothold.

This is the conclusion arrived at by the leading medical authorities. They also attribute the increase of Appendicitis to Indigestion and the increase of Indigestion to the hurried methods of living.

The cure is rest. And this is the principle on which Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets work. They digest the food themselves and the stomach gets a chance to rest. Results show that both theory and cure are correct. Take the case of Joseph Leake, 194 McCaul street, foreman pressman in the News office. Mr. Leake says:

"I have been troubled for three years with Dyspepsia and Biliousness. I tried several remedies, but none could cure me. I used one box of Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets and was cured.

"My daughter also was troubled with Headaches and Dyspepsia. Dodd's Dyspepsia Tablets cured her."

A MAGICAL LIFE SAVER is Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart. After years of pain and agony with distressing Heart Disease, it gives relief in 30 minutes. Thos. Petry, of Aylmer, Que., writes: "I had suffered for five years with a severe form of Heart Disease. The slightest exertion produced fatigue. Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart gave me instant relief, four bottles entirely cured me." Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—115.

J. T. Emery, a resident of this city 30 years ago, and who has not visited here since that time, is making, in company with his wife, a pleasure trip through Vancouver Island. Mr. Emery is from Emeryville, near San Francisco, which place was named in his honor. During the 70's he owned and operated exclusive stone quarries at Newcastle, near Nanaimo, from which he obtained the stone to build the mint at San Francisco. Mr. Emery and wife will remain in the city for some days to renew old acquaintances. They are registered at the Dominion.

AGE'S TRIUMPH.

Hail, great old man! You pass with head bent low;
Your eighty years are heavy; in your eyes
No sign of latent, smoldering fire lies;
Your steps are feeble and the way you go
Shall end ere long, as you yourself must know;
Your work is done, there is no earthly prize
To claim your efforts or evoke your sighs;
To-morrow's breezes o'er your grave may blow.

Yet, hail, old man! Fate cannot take away
The years that you have lived, the joys you've known;
For us who claim the future as our own
And bother with ambitious plans to-day,
The fates may have but little left to send—
Before to-morrow dawns the world may end.

It has been learned that Mrs. Harper Lynde, a wealthy widow, who disappeared from her home at New York on Tuesday, left letters in which she intimated that she intended to take her life; she also left instructions as to the disposal of certain jewels. She is 68 years old. Joseph W. Harper, one of the founders of Harper & Bros., was her father.

BORN.

WALKER—At Vancouver, on May 2nd, the wife of P. de Noe Walker, of a son.

PARKINSON—At Fairview, on April 21st, the wife of Richard H. Parkinson, J.P., of a son.

CURTIS—At Revelstoke, on April 23rd, the wife of Joseph Curtis, of a son.

MARRIED.

MOTTISHEW-KENNEDY—At Vancouver, on April 30th, by Rev. G. A. Wilson, R. Mottishew and Miss Kennedy.

BRISTOW-BERRYMON—At Revelstoke, on April 29th, by Rev. C. A. Procunier, M. A., John Robert Bristow and Margaret Berrymon.

DIED.

CUSACK—At the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Gibbs, 36 Douglas street, on Friday, May 1st, Charlotte Cusack, in the 56th year of her age.

WAUGH—At Kamloops, on April 29th, J. Waugh, aged 26 years.

BOURNE—At Revelstoke, on April 28th, George, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Bourne, aged 19 years.

THE LOCAL TEAM WIN THEIR FIRST

AND SO SIGNALLIZED OPENING OF SEASON

Nine From Mt. Angel College Could Not Hold Their Own—Other Sports on Saturday.

An almost errorless match resulting in a well earned victory for the home team marked the opening of the baseball season for 1903 in Victoria on Saturday. The local nine acquitted themselves in a highly creditable manner on the field and at the bat, and all who saw the game are agreed that the city has this year the strongest aggregation that has represented it for years. Mount Angel was defeated by a score of 3 to 1, which is a good indication of the character of the game. The weather was beautiful, and in fact everything that could contribute to a good match either from the standpoint of the players or spectators was evident. The grounds could not have been in better condition, the inner field being as level as a billiard board. The nine innings were played through by both teams in as scientific a manner as could be desired by the most exacting. There were present over a thousand people, almost every available seat in the grand stand being occupied, while many stood or reclined on either side. Although as good a car service as possible was provided it was not sufficient to comfortably accommodate the crowd.

At 3 o'clock promptly Mount Angel took the bat, and upon the word "play ball" from the official umpire, S. Schultz, "Jimmy" Holness, Victoria's popular pitcher, sent the first twirl over the plate. Hunt, who was at the bat, made a base hit, but it was of no avail for score purposes. Carrigan struck out, McKune hit to Chase at third and was caught at first, and Manning tipped inside the diamond and was also put out at first. When the local boys came in they were greeted with enthusiasm.

Smith was first at the plate for the local team and seemed to have no difficulty in finding McBurney's curves, for he tapped a safe one between first and second. Rithet followed with a fly to second and was caught out. While Chase was at the bat Smith stole second. Chase got first on balls, and was succeeded by McConnell, who knocked one to third, and while he got to first safely Smith was shut out at third. Two were now out and two on bases. Goward came to the bat, but failed to make the hit necessary to bring in the runs. A number of good plays were made in this inning, all of which elicited hearty applause from the grand stand.

The Mount Angel team was put out in short order on coming to the bat in the second inning. Porter struck out. Gearin got first on a short hit to second. Kell hit to Holness, who caught Porter at second, while Emerson passing on to first almost made a double play by catching Kell before he got to first. Pellard struck out and the team took the field.

Two runs were recorded for Victoria in this inning. Moore was first to the bat and was given one of those slow deceptive balls which, however, he succeeded in landing well out into left field. When he reached the second bag in safety the crowd cheered wildly. Burns was caught at first on a short hit to second, but Moore made third. Emerson then made a short hit to second, which brought Moore home and the batter safe at first through some fumbling of the visiting team's infield. Holness hit a long fly to centre field, which was caught by McKune. Smith knocked one to second and made first. At the same time Emerson was able to gain third on an overthrow to second, and crossed the home plate on another overthrow to third. During this time Smith had got to third, but didn't score, the next batter going out. Victoria thus scored two in this innings.

It was in the fifth round of the game that Mount Angel scored their only point. Holness allowed Gearin off on balls. Kell followed, hitting a long foul just outside the bounds of left field before fanning out. Gearin stole second, and Smith in endeavoring to catch him made an overthrow to third. Gearin finally crossed the home plate on Chase missing a throw from second.

In Victoria's eighth inning Smith started out with a short hit to second on which he got to first. On an overthrow he established himself on second. Rithet hit to right field, bringing Smith to third and himself at first. Chase was next to bat. Rithet made an attempt to steal second and succeeded, while Smith crossed the plate. The batter got to first on a short hit, and Rithet was put out at home. McConnell fanned, and Goward was put out on a tap to the pitcher. These innings were the only ones in which scores were made.

The Victoria team is a credit to the city, and the management are to be congratulated upon the fine aggregation they have gathered together. Their work on the field on Saturday was exceedingly good, and with such a nine fast and exciting games with the best teams of Washington, Oregon and California may be looked forward to this season. The home team's battery was most effective, Smith and Holness working together splendidly. The base work was good, and the fielding, what there was of it, was performed faultlessly.

The visitors are an evenly balanced team. The battery was fairly good, but McBurney, the twirler, has no curves that were difficult to manipulate. All the infield did well, except in the latter part of the second inning, when two runs were made by Victoria on overthrows.

The tabulated score follows:

Victoria.

	a.b.	r.	h.	p.o.	a.	e.
Smith, c.	4	1	2	11	2	1
Rithet, 1 b.	4	0	2	7	0	1
Chase, 3 b.	4	0	1	1	2	1
McConnell, s. s.	3	0	0	1	1	0
Goward, l. f.	4	0	0	0	0	0
Moore, r. f.	3	1	1	1	0	0
Burnes, c. f.	2	0	0	1	0	0
Emerson, 2 b.	3	1	0	5	1	0
Holness, p.	3	0	0	0	2	0
	30	3	6	27	8	3

Mount Angel College.

	a.b.	r.	h.	p.o.	a.	e.
Hunt, 1 b.	3	0	1	9	0	1
Carrigan, r. f.	3	0	0	0	0	0
McKune, c. f.	3	0	0	3	0	0
Manning, l. f.	4	0	0	1	0	0
Porter, 3 b.	4	0	1	3	2	1
Gearin, 2 b.	2	1	0	1	3	1
Kell, c.	3	0	0	5	0	0
Pellard, s. s.	3	0	0	1	0	0
McBurney, p.	3	0	0	0	3	0
	28	1	2	*23	8	3

*McConnell out, interfering with batted ball.

Score by Innings.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Victoria	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	.	—3
Mt. Angel	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	—1

Summary: Earned runs—Victoria, 2; Mt. Angel, 0. Three base hit—Rithet. Two base hit—Moore. Bases on balls—By Holness, 2; by McBurney, 1. Struck out—By Holness, 11; by McBurney, 4. Wild pitches—McBurney. Time of game, 1 hour 12 minutes. Umpire, S. D. Schultz.

LACROSSE.

INTERMEDIATE MEETING.

The adjourned meeting of the B. C. I. L. A. was held at New Westminster on Saturday. President Cambridge occupied the chair.

An application was received from the Nanaimo Lacrosse Club to enter an intermediate team in the league. The application was granted, and the Nanaimo team formally granted admission to the B. C. I. L. A.

Article 6, section 3, of the constitution was amended as follows: "An intermediate is a player who has not played more than three senior championship games in any one season." This was carried, after a good deal of discussion, by a vote of 7 to 1. The applications for reinstatement were then taken up. The names were all read and every one was reinstated. The following motion was passed with regard to the Nanaimo intermediates: "Anyone of the Nanaimo players who plays one game with the Victoria seniors will be declared senior."

The players reinstated are: Nanaimo—O. Dobeson, J. C. McGregor, C. Rosewall, D. McCance, William Barnes, W. Steele, S. Hague, W. Glaholm, H. Madill, R. Simpson, J. Martin, J. Fitzgerald, L. Brooks, M. Wilkinson, W. Hilbert. Vancouver—C. Cao, J. McLachlan, C. Quigley, G. Morrison, W. Chase, S. Morrison. New Westminster—T. Oddy, C. P. Latham, George Rennie.

The schedule was drafted as follows:

May 23—Terminals at Vancouver.
May 25—Westminster at Nanaimo.
June 13—Nanaimo at Terminals.
June 27—Terminals at Westminster.
July 4—Nanaimo at Vancouver.
August 1—Nanaimo at Westminster.
August 15—New Westminster at Vancouver.
August 29—New Westminster at Terminals.

A CLEAN-UP NECESSARY.

Some startling evidence has been brought out before the select committee of the House that is endeavoring to unravel the mystery in connection with the notorious Columbia & Western land steal, but if the ministers care to take the trouble to ascertain public opinion they will find out that there is a practically unanimous conviction that less than half has yet been told.

We are told by the chief, if not the only, organ of the government that the policy of the First Minister and of his colleagues has been steadfastly directed towards protecting the interests of the province. We prefer to suspend judgment upon that point until all the facts of the case are laid bare. It is more than probable that the electors of British Columbia, the jury which will finally pronounce upon the matter, also desire to hear more before acquitting any of the members of the government and all of the members of the House of complicity in the reprehensible transaction.

There is only one thing quite clear at present. That "rascals in office were in league with rascals out of office" for the purpose of robbing the people of British Columbia of a valuable portion of their domain. The story as told before the select committee does not fit in harmoniously with the records of the Legislature. Those records prove that repeated attempts were made to convey a large slice of valuable territory to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The efforts to consummate the deal in what may be called a regular way, by the passage of a bill, with the assistance of a certain section of the House which we believe still poses as in opposition, were frustrated by the vigilance of the members who have been chiefly instrumental in unearthing this deplorable scandal. Foiled in one direction, the ministers and their pals sought to accomplish their purposes by orders in council. Evidently jealousies over the distribution of the spoils led to dissensions and intrigues within select circles. We shall hear something as to that later, as it is clear but a chapter of the tale has yet been published. Evidently the pertinacity with which the member for Delta and those associated with him in the revelations continued to probe into the records of the government aroused tripidation and alarm. Hence the contradictory nature of the orders in council, and finally the introduction of the so-called repudiation measure.

Now it is quite impossible to believe that Colonel Prior when he entered the government was not made acquainted with the attempted deal in all its ramifications. During the period of his occupancy of the post of Minister of Mines he must have become thoroughly acquainted with the facts. When he undertook to form a government and asked his old colleagues to join his administration he became responsible for their acts, and it is absurd for him to pose as the guardian of the interests of the province in the face of the facts. He brought down that cancellation bill simply because it was the price of his Premiership. If he had not done so his government would have been defeated on the first vote of the session. The people of the province are under no obligations whatever to Premier Prior for his course in connection with the frustration of the plans of the conspirators. He supported a bill which was designed to accomplish what was attempted by order in council and would have worked it through the House if it had been in his power to do so.

We are willing, and no doubt the public will be willing, to give Mr. Dunsmuir credit for whatever is creditable to him in this scandalous affair. In the present aspect of the matter there will be no disposition, we are sure, to question his honesty of purpose. But from the manner in which his cabinet acted, and from his apparent lack of knowledge of the purposes of colleagues working their deals practically under his nose, it is apparent that they had no very high opinion of the acumen or penetration of his mind. As soon as he discovered that "something was wrong" he interposed and ended the deal. He staid the hands of the "wholesale plunderers." He surely could not have done less. If he had been thoroughly qualified for the position to which he had been called, no such work would have been attempted, because he would have called into his councils honest, trustworthy men.

But, deplorable as this affair must appear to all who are truly and unselfishly interested in the welfare of British Columbia, there are some features connected with it for which there is reason to be thankful. There are men in public life who have proved themselves valiant guardians of the patrimony of the people. Abuse and ridicule have been showered upon them by the patriots at any price, but they were not to be deterred from the purpose to which they had set themselves. They stood to their guns and their fire was so well directed that to-day the world beholds such a mass of corruption as has not been laid bare in other parts of the British dominions. It is true there has been only too much wrong-doing in connection with politics in other parts of Canada, but lust of office and not greed for personal enrichment has been at the bottom of most of it. In our case, we are sorry to say, the evidence thus far brought out indicates that some of the ministers and their friends hoped to carry off so rich a prize as would have rendered public opinion a matter of indifference to them during the course of their lives. Mr. Oliver has not sat at the feet of doctors learned in the law, but he is gifted with a large fund of common sense and with such inellectual penetration as enabled him to see through the great cloud of dust the ministers raised in the hope of screening their acts from scrutiny. No doubt he received a great deal of valuable assistance from his friends on the opposition side of the House. But Mr. Oliver's pertinacity of purpose in face of the plainly apparent opposition of the government and its supporters brought out the first particulars of the notorious deal, and there will be no hesitation about according him due credit therefor.

If the Premier wishes to appear in the affair in a light which will afford the people the only satisfaction they can gain from it, he should now afford the member for Delta all the assistance in his power in bringing out the truth. Indeed, we assume that the Legislature will insist upon this. As the matter stands every member of the House is under a cloud. Let the political atmosphere be thoroughly cleared, the guilty punished, and we shall have little fear in the future. If the people are given a chance, we are satisfied they will make a thorough political clean-up, and the province needs it.

It will now be in order for the C. P. R. to take a hand in the great political controversy of the day. It is not quite clear what the company was going to get out of the land deal in its final development. That is what deepens the mystery in connection with the whole affair. That corporation is not in the business of engaging officers to intrigue in its name for their own personal aggrandizement. Yet the C. P. R. is involved in the scandal and is bound to vindicate its character. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy will surely be heard from now that the stopper has been taken out of the odorous jar and the smoke of the vile business is in the air.

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The people of British Columbia might have seen whither they were drifting years ago. We surmise that at last they will be thoroughly aroused. An election cannot be deferred very long. There will be a keen scrutiny of records by the electorate and woe and lamentation among politicians of a certain class. There have always been too many of a certain class in our legislature.

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There are evidently states that have sunk to lower political depths than we have in British Columbia. A Wisconsin legislator says he is in possession of evidence that would send half of his colleagues to the penitentiary. It is surmised that within a few days we shall know where some of our legislators ought to be.

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A few days ago the Premier said newspapers should be restrained from "holding the members up to ridicule." The facts warrant the members being held up to obloquy, and they will be until they isolate their lepers.