

The Colonist.

MONDAY, JULY 4, 1898.

FAIR PLAY TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Victoria Political Organization at the beginning of the campaign addressed a letter to Messrs. Turner, Rithet, Helmcken and Braden, asking if they would allow their names to be submitted as candidates for re-election. Replies were received from all these gentlemen, and the following was that of Mr. Rithet. It was dated at San Francisco, May 17, 1898, and addressed to Munro Miller, Esq., secretary of the Victoria Political Organization. Mr. Rithet said: "I received your letter of the 11th inst. The matter referred to has been having my serious attention for some time past, and I regret to say that, so far as I can at the present time judge, I will not be able to be submitted as a candidate for re-election to the provincial parliament. I do this with a great deal of reluctance because I would like to again become a member to see certain things carried through which I think are in the interests of British Columbia, particularly in regard to the fiscal relations between the province and the Dominion government, which in my judgment require to be prominently brought before the people of the province at the coming election. We are, as a province, getting decidedly the worst of the game under the existing conditions. That these conditions should be changed cannot be questioned; and I feel confident that on a proper representation the re-adjustment of matters might be accomplished. I fear, however, that my time during the next year or so will be so occupied at this point as to prevent my giving sufficient time to my duties if elected to the legislature, and I dislike exceedingly to undertake a responsibility of that kind and not be able to give it proper and sufficient attention. I beg, therefore, that you will convey to the organization my thanks for having suggested my name, and express my great regret that I do not see my way to accept nomination at the present time. The lines on which it is proposed to proceed—by having local politics in no way connected with Dominion politics—is, I think, a wise one."

Mr. Rithet's standing in this community makes this letter of great interest and importance. In it are expressed the opinions of a practical business man with wide interests not in this city alone, but in other parts of the province. They are the views of one who is closely in touch with public affairs and with almost everything which tends to promote the prosperity of the province. What he says, therefore, will be given great weight not only by the people of Victoria but throughout British Columbia. We draw attention first to Mr. Rithet's expression of opinion as to the desirability of keeping federal and provincial politics apart. Mr. Rithet, as is well known, is a Conservative, but he realizes that the majority of business men realize that the interests of British Columbia have little in common with the interests of the parties who are striving for supremacy at Ottawa. In this respect he may be regarded as representative. Having no political ambitions of his own to gratify, he is well able to form an opinion on the question of combining the two branches of our political life, and his judgment appears to be unequivocally against such a union.

The second and most important point brought out in this letter is that in regard to the claims of the province upon the Dominion. Colonist readers will remember that during the session of 1897 Mr. Rithet gave especial attention to this subject, and the lengthy and able speech which he delivered in connection therewith will probably serve as a foundation for the case which the government will hereafter present to Ottawa. We do not think that enough is being made of this great question. We do not believe that the people of the province fully realize what it implies. Especially are we of the opinion that the people of Vancouver Island do not grasp the full significance of the demand upon the Dominion government for fair play. It is a fact that cannot be gainsaid that the chief tendency in recent years on the part of the government and legislature has been for the development of the Mainland, and this was right and proper enough, because the demands of the Mainland were very much greater and more pressing than those of the Island. We do not think that there is any jealousy on the part of the people of Vancouver Island in this connection. The fact that they have hitherto sustained the government handsomely and will sustain them handsomely at the present election, shows that they fully recognize the justice of the line of policy which has been followed. But there are many things which the people of Vancouver Island require, many things which ought to be done to advance the interests of the city of Victoria; and among them are especially the development of the Island itself and of the northwest coast of the Mainland. It fortunately so happens that anything which may be done in these lines will be beneficial to Vancouver and that portion of the province as well as to Victoria and among them are especially the development of the Island itself and of the northwest coast of the Mainland. It fortunately so happens that anything which may be done in these lines will be beneficial to Vancouver and that portion of the province as well as to Victoria and among them are especially the development of the Island itself and of the northwest coast of the Mainland. It fortunately so happens that anything which may be done in these lines will be beneficial to Vancouver and that portion of the province as well as to Victoria and among them are especially the development of the Island itself and of the northwest coast of the Mainland.

are, therefore, compelled to look to Ottawa for that measure of justice which will enable the needed improvements to be made. It is for this reason that we say that the demand for fair play especially appeals to the people of Vancouver Island.

Let it not be understood that the Colonist claims that this is a local question. It touches every part of the province. It is one of the most important questions which can be submitted to the parliament of Canada. We might almost say that in proportion as the Dominion does justice to this province so as to enable it to inaugurate those great systems of development, without which its progress will be slow, so will the progress of the western part of the Dominion be. The voters should resolve that nothing, which they may do or may leave undone, can be cited against any claim that will be advanced on behalf of this province at Ottawa.

We again draw attention to the fact that as yet only one opposition paper in the province has referred to this claim for fair play, namely, the Victoria Times, which has expressed the hope that it will utterly fail. We know perfectly well that if by any misfortune the province should come into the hands of a party led by Mr. Joseph Martin it would be powerless to make its influence felt at Ottawa. Nothing will be demanded by such a party which will not be prompted by a desire to promote the individual interests of its members rather than those of the province at large. The demand, we repeat, is not a partisan one. It is not made because Sir Wilfrid Laurier is in power at Ottawa. It is not made to embarrass anyone. It is the expression of the rights of a province which has not yet received its full measure of justice. We call upon the electors to remember that every vote which they cast for the Hon. Mr. Turner or any of his supporters is a vote for the rights of the province, and that any vote cast for a party which has declared that these rights do not exist and that it hopes the demand for their recognition will utterly fail. We call upon the voters to stand by Hon. Mr. Turner and fair play for British Columbia.

NO ROOM FOR ANNEXATIONISTS.

There is no room in British Columbia for annexationists. There are in the United States to-day nearly a million Canadians, who have gone there to better their condition financially. Some of them have determined to remain there permanently and have become citizens of that country. Others regard their stay there as only temporary and hence have retained their British allegiance. There are in Canada to-day thousands of Canadians, who have returned after a residence in the United States, and who have brought back with them to the land of their birth a better appreciation of the institutions of British countries than they had before going away. There are a number of native-born American citizens in Canada, who have become British subjects and are as distinguished for their loyalty to the flag of the country which is now their home as could be desired. This movement of population backward and forward across the border is a natural one and may be expected to continue. While we all desire to see as few Canadians as possible leave the Dominion, we all recognize that it is inevitable that there will always be more or less of a current setting to the South, and the friends of those who seek what they think are better opportunities in that country, wish them every success and prosperity. We venture to say that of all the host that has left the Dominion to make their home in the United States, it would not be possible to discover a corporal's guard of annexationists. If there is one thing, which more than another residence in the United States instils into the mind of an intelligent man, it is that Canadian institutions are preferable to those of that country, and we are satisfied that the feeling of Canadians in the republic would be all but unanimously one of regret, if Canada should conclude to break off British connection.

If there are those in Canada who think that American institutions are better than our own, and who believe that this country ought to be annexed to the United States, the proper course for them to take is to remove to that country. There is no room in Canada for the man who is opposed to British connection. He cannot be so opposed and be a true son of Canada. Whatever can be said of the public men of the Dominion, this must be admitted, that they are singularly free from the annexation taint. We do not recall a single individual now holding a prominent public position, who can be accused of entertaining annexation sentiment. The case of Mr. John V. Ellis, M.P., is sometimes cited as proof that a man may be an annexationist and yet represent a parliamentary constituency; but no one can cite a line from any of Mr. Ellis' writings or a word from any of his speeches in warrant such an assertion. We speak with much positiveness upon this point, because we know what the facts are. Mr. Ellis is only a private member of parliament. He has never held office in a government, or been a minister of the crown. The case of Mr. Joseph Martin is exceptional and almost unique. There have been men in Canada, who have expressed sentiments in favor of annexation, but have afterwards abandoned them and come to occupy high position in the gift of the people; but Mr. Martin is, we believe, the only person who, while holding a portfolio in a government and occupying the position of a sworn minister of the crown, has expressed himself as favorable to handing Canada over to the United States. If there is another such instance, we would like some one to cite it. Mr. Martin says in his own defence that the

expression that has been quoted was used privately at a dinner. We do not see how this alters the case, and wherever it was said, it was given sufficient publicity to lead Sir John Macdonald to refuse to have anything further to do with it, and to confine his negotiations thereafter on Manitoba questions to interviews with Mr. Greenway.

The province of British Columbia is not so badly off for public men that it must place itself in the hands of one who entertains sentiments favorable to annexation. Mr. Martin has not even intimated that he has abandoned such views. He was an annexationist at the date of the incident just mentioned. If he is no longer one, when did he cease to be one? Will he tell the people when he became a loyal British subject, if he is one? It is his duty to explain his position if he can. He has no right to seek the suffrages of a loyal people, while maintaining disloyalty in his heart. The man who would accept an office in the gift of the crown, while entertaining sentiments hostile to the dominion of the crown on this continent, is a traitor in disguise. It has suited the purposes of the opposition press to hound, with all the epithets which they can invent, one who at one time, contemplating becoming an American citizen, even though he is asking nothing from the people, but a right to make a living. Yet this same press is laboring day and night to advance to the premiership of this great province a man who, while sworn to allegiance to Her Majesty, openly avowed sentiments that the people of British Columbia have now an opportunity to express their opinion of annexationists. Let them do it by defeating Joseph Martin and every man who stands ready to help him into the premiership.

THE OUTLOOK.

There is no longer any room for doubt that the government will be handsomely sustained at the forthcoming election. We have reached this conclusion after giving full weight to all the claims that can reasonably be made by the opposition. It is never good policy to understate the strength of an opponent nor to enter into a contest without conceding to one's self the possibility of being defeated. Over-confidence has before now led to the overthrow of strong candidates and strong parties. We therefore think it good policy rather to understate than to overstate the chances of our political friends. An estimate published in the Rossland Miner gives the division of parties in the next house at, government, 24; opposition, 14; and this, it indicates, is the opinion which the Premier has formed from his tour through the province. There is a possibility that the opposition may secure even fewer seats than this, but some of the constituencies are close and the proverbial uncertainty of election day will alter any calculation to some extent one way or the other. There are 38 members in the legislature, twenty-two constitute the majority. We invite readers to an analysis of the following table, in which we include no seats that are in any reasonable doubt as to their returning government supporters:

Victoria	4
Cassiar	4
East Kootenay	2
North Nanaimo	1
Comox	1
Cowichan	1
South Victoria	1
Alberni	1
Cariboo	1
Dewdney	1
North Yale	1
Chilliwack	1
Lillooet	2
Esquimalt	2

We select these constituencies because even the opposition must concede the government will carry them. They will return twenty-two members, or two more than a majority. We have not included Nanaimo city and South Nanaimo in the list because the oppositionists claim that they have a fighting chance there, and the same remark applies to North Victoria. We are confident that these three constituencies will return government candidates, but for the purposes of the present calculation, which is only intended to show where a working majority can be got beyond the least possible question, we dismiss them from consideration. We have included in the list the two Esquimalt seats, because our advice was that this riding is certain to return two government candidates. We have only claimed one seat in Cariboo, because the opposition admit that the government will have one seat there. We fully expect two, but will for the present purposes only reckon one. We have eliminated Vancouver from the list entirely, although it is certain as anything can be that two, and perhaps all, of the government candidates will be elected there. We have even left out so safe a constituency as Rossland. We ask the voters to carefully consider the above constituencies and to strike out of the list any which they think the opposition can count upon and then to take the other seats giving the lie direct to the over-rash and unduly confident Colonist to those who have known Mr. Hall during his many years' business career in Victoria; there are none who would think of him as the willing or unwilling tool of any opposition or individual. His blunt honesty and independence are among the strongest features of his character.

Col. Gregory has apparently based his assertion on the fact that Mr. Hall's sides being a ship-owner and general insurance agent, retains an excellent grade of Wellington coal, wholesaled by the Dunsmuir family, and that he is a member of the Gregorys with regard to another, it is reasonable to apply it to himself. During the last session of the legislature, Col. Gregory was employed by Mackenzie & Mann as solicitor, to look after a railway bill in which they were interested. There is no doubt that he was from his own dealings with this firm, must, from his own reasoning, be a tool of Mackenzie, Mann & Co. I don't believe that he is the case; however, the illustration only goes to prove that rashness and indiscretion are among the political honours should be more careful in making assertions as to the character and honesty of their opponents. In Col. Gregory's case, it is not likely that he will repeat the error of Mr. Hall's case, at any rate, the indiscretion he committed on Tuesday evening. CHAS. CHAKO.

MR. MARTIN'S BLUFF.

Mr. Joseph Annexationist Martin has issued a challenge to Mr. A. B. McPhillips to discuss an incident in Mr. Martin's political career. Mr. McPhillips made the following statement upon which the challenge is based:

"Referring again to the government ownership of railways, Mr. McPhillips said such a policy had once been proposed in Manitoba and one of the chief opponents of the policy was this man Joseph Martin. He instead brought about the construction of the Northern railway, in the charter of which there was a \$500 a mile clause. The Free Press newspaper went into the question of this \$500 a mile and made a serious charge against Joseph Martin. Mr. Martin brought an action for damages but the jury decided the case in favor of the Free Press. A new trial was allowed, but Mr. Martin never brought the case to a second trial."

This is either true or it is not true. If Mr. Martin admits it to be true, then there is nothing to discuss. If he wishes to dispute it, let him so state. Until he has pleaded to the indictment preferred by Mr. McPhillips, that gentleman will, if he will be advised by the Colonist, treat the challenge with the contempt it deserves.

We have very satisfactory advice from West Yale, where Mr. McKay is contesting the seat in the government interest against Mr. Semlin. If Mr. McKay does not win, the reason will be rather a curious one. Mr. Semlin's former constituents, like every one else who knows him, feel very kindly towards him and they are disposed to resent the cavalier manner in which he has been treated by the opposition. Many of them feel like sending him back to the house simply to show that they believe the attempt to displace him from the leadership is an act of extreme unfairness. Mr. McKay is putting up a very excellent campaign, and if it were not for this feeling of sympathy for his opponent he could be quite sure of success. As it is he will have to fight hard for the seat; but the present trend of public sentiment shows that he is very likely to win it. That he makes an excellent impression upon the voters will be recognized as only what was to be expected by all who know him. He has been a long time resident of this province and occupies a position of great trust and responsibility in a business way. He is a thoroughly good business man and knows the wants of the interior of the province about as well as any man can. For years his connection with the express company brought him in contact with men in all lines of industry, and his duties compelled him to familiarize himself with the conditions existing over a very large section of country. He would make an excellent representative, and although the Colonist would miss Mr. Semlin's familiar face from the legislature, it hopes that the electors of West Yale will decide to send Mr. McKay to the house, for he would be a representative whose presence there would be a great advantage to the province as a whole.

The Rossland Times says that the miners are not doing the kicking against the mining license but that objection to it is simply a party cry by which the opposition hope to win in mining districts. It very justly remarks that the idea of compelling coal miners to take out a license is absurd, and that it would be just as reasonable to tax farmers and millers. Undoubtedly the Times takes the correct view of the matter. It will be necessary to after the law so as to relieve men who are not miners in the sense contemplated by the act, but that it will ever abolish or that the persons to whom it was intended to apply desire it to be abolished, cannot be conceded for a moment. As the Times says, no prospector desires to see the law changed.

One of the pet cries of the opposition is that the government has alienated practically all the public domain. We have seen it stated specifically in more than one of the opposition papers and have heard it more than once said in the legislature that the government has done this. Now, as a matter of fact, the area of British Columbia is upwards of 220,000,000 acres, and of this only 10,000,000 acres have been alienated; or one acre out of every 22. This hardly bears out opposition contention, but it is about as near the truth as the average oppositionist can easily get when he discusses the policy of the local government.

RASH AND INDISCREET.

To the Editors: The denial uttered by Mr. Richard Hall to Col. Gregory's assertion that he was a tool of the E. & N. railway would not be considered the retort of a courteous or ordinary occasion, but one that could forgive a man of Mr. Hall's sterling independence for giving the lie direct to the over-rash and unduly confident Colonist to those who have known Mr. Hall during his many years' business career in Victoria; there are none who would think of him as the willing or unwilling tool of any opposition or individual. His blunt honesty and independence are among the strongest features of his character. Col. Gregory has apparently based his assertion on the fact that Mr. Hall's sides being a ship-owner and general insurance agent, retains an excellent grade of Wellington coal, wholesaled by the Dunsmuir family, and that he is a member of the Gregorys with regard to another, it is reasonable to apply it to himself. During the last session of the legislature, Col. Gregory was employed by Mackenzie & Mann as solicitor, to look after a railway bill in which they were interested. There is no doubt that he was from his own dealings with this firm, must, from his own reasoning, be a tool of Mackenzie, Mann & Co. I don't believe that he is the case; however, the illustration only goes to prove that rashness and indiscretion are among the political honours should be more careful in making assertions as to the character and honesty of their opponents. In Col. Gregory's case, it is not likely that he will repeat the error of Mr. Hall's case, at any rate, the indiscretion he committed on Tuesday evening. CHAS. CHAKO.

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