

BRIDE GOVERNMENT STUBBLY DENOUNCED

Liberals Hear Rousing Speeches at Preliminary Meeting For Organization Purposes—Union in Ranks of Party.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The first meeting for organization purposes, under the auspices of the Liberal Association and the Young Liberal Club of this city, took place last evening in Pioneer hall. It proved a rousing success.

Long before 8 o'clock the members began to gather, until when the president of the association called the assembly to order the hall was well filled. Though largely for the purpose of doing the preliminary work necessary to the campaign, spirited addresses were delivered by the representatives of the city in the last legislature. A campaign committee, a committee to interview candidates, and one to arrange for halls and speakers during the campaign, were appointed.

Prior to this, however, a committee appointed at a session of the executive committees of the two bodies above named to secure central headquarters for the party during the campaign, reported. Rooms in the Vernon block, Douglas street, had been chosen. They will be ready for occupation immediately.

The greatest of enthusiasm was shown throughout the proceedings, the prophecy of a sweeping victory in the province freely ventured and pledges of fealty to the Liberal party and promises of support proffered by all present.

Each and all of the former members declared their readiness to abide by the decision of the coming convention, and in the event of their being selected or not selected to bear the standard of the party to the polls, to give their undivided support and their best efforts to the cause of Liberalism and reform throughout the campaign.

The convention will be held probably about Wednesday of next week, following the reception of Messrs. Macdonald and McInnes.

The Proceedings. The president of the Liberal Association, R. B. McKicking, called the meeting to order. D. Leeming was nominated secretary and consented to it.

The assembly had been summoned, he announced, for the purpose of organizing for the forthcoming campaign. Dissolution had been sprung suddenly upon them, but it had come entirely as a surprise. They were ready and prepared for the struggle, but there were a number of things yet to do.

First and foremost it was necessary to work. It was necessary to show the people of the community that they were workers. The Liberal party and Liberals were always workers. Mr. McKicking referred to the action of the joint executive of the Liberal organizations in appointing preliminary committees.

Messrs. Courtney and Fraser reported as mentioned above, that rooms in the Vernon block had been secured as committee headquarters.

The chairman then called for a few impromptu speeches. W. G. Cameron was the first.

"Having been returned as one of the four Liberal members at the last election," he remarked, "I have to thank you for the confidence you have entrusted in me. The government has seen fit to cut short the term of parliament in a minority. I am confident of that. Well, I have endeavored to do my duty to you to the best of my ability. Although the Liberal representation was in a minority, I am confident of that the cause of Liberalism has been materially advanced. The party is in the best position politically in which it has ever been. It was a new proposition, this of party lines, but now our time has come. We have a leader who possesses the confidence of the province. I see no reason why he should not be the next premier."

"Continuing, the speaker said that as Victoria had elected a solid four at the last election it must not fall short of doing so again. He had no fear for the result. It was the duty of the city, though, to assist the Liberal party in its constituencies. He would do his part. He was confident all would do so.

"Lastly, gentlemen," he said, "I am no longer a representative. I am but a member of your executive, one with you. Whether you see fit to nominate me, or not to do so, I shall strive with all my might and main to elect your candidate. No matter who he may be, I pledge my heartiest support to him."

The chairman then called upon J. D. McInnes.

Mr. McInnes in rising thanked them now, at the end of his term, for having shown their confidence in him by electing him to represent them at the last election. He would not review the record of the Liberal members of the late parliament. It stood for itself. An opposition necessarily could do little positive.

"This," continued Mr. McInnes, "is particularly true of the Liberal delegation to the last legislature. It was the character of the opposition we had to meet, due to the policy of the government of the Hon. Richard McBride. Unlike other governments where names count, here the name of the McBride government even when it found itself in the wrong, would not take advice from the opposition. But it is now in the power of the province to make a change. I am confident they will do so.

"Like Mr. Cameron, I am yours to command. No matter who you see fit to nominate, I am confident I shall have my support. I am for Liberalism, not McInnes."

Continuing, the speaker referred to the report that there were several malcontents in the Liberal ranks. All present knew what was behind the ac-

tion of these two or three. Their reasons did them little credit. One on the other hand, look at the host of Conservatives who were "disgusted with the record of the government. The Liberals would get many more supporters. They might lose one or two men whose support had been but lukewarm."

Mr. Drury was the next speaker. In a ringing arraignment of the government Mr. Drury reviewed their record, enunciating the various "deals" in which they had been implicated.

"The keynote of this campaign and the platform of the government," he said, "is sounded in the Colonist of the last issue—that in view of the unprecedented prosperity of the province, it would be a calamity to defeat the McBride government, that the McBride government had found the province debilitated and its credit impeded and had restored stability and should receive the credit for it."

The province was prosperous, the speaker conceded. In many cases it was difficult to specify the cause of prosperity when it was seen to exist. In the present case of British Columbia this was not so. The cause was so apparent that he who runs may read.

British Columbia's prosperity arose from a variety of causes. First, the thriving state of the lumber industry. A few years ago there were almost as many mills, they were shut up. Why? Because they had no market for their lumber. The change springs from the demand which exists for lumber in the Northwest provinces. This had been due to the influx of settlers attendant upon the progressive policy of the Dominion government with regard to immigration.

The speaker stated that there were other ways of helping a province than by giving a foolish government money to squander. He also reviewed the situation of various communities and pronounced them most favorable.

With regard to the school act, the government had not only unjustly placed the burden of the school act upon the municipalities, but betrayed the province with regard to higher education. They had placed the college in the hands of the province, thus depriving British Columbia of the hope of ever having a provincial university.

The speaker then referred to the railway question. Mr. McBride's recent manifesto had said that "at the present time there is a greater mileage under construction than at any time in the history of the province since the building of the C. P. R." But the McBride government had not been responsible for this.

"Some weeks ago," said Mr. Drury, "the Colonist announced the Hill's line, the V. V. & E. who is to build from Victoria to Victoria. Who is responsible for this?"

The V. V. & E. construction was only made possible through the efforts of the Hon. William Templeman, Senator for the Yukon and the Hon. J. G. McInnes, Minister of the Interior. Turn up the files of the Colonist and see how that paper was grinding out editorials against the construction of that road while the Conservatives, Mr. McBride's fellow politicians, were working trowel and nail against it. The C. P. R. was constructed through the efforts of the Liberal party as in defiance of the Conservatives." (Applause.)

The speaker then dealt with mining conditions in the province. The premier promised special legislation when a delegation of mining men had laid their grievances before him. Voice—"Yes, yes"—but he had never fulfilled it.

Mr. Drury in commenting on Premier McBride's claim that his government had brought stability to the country, asked if his government had been such a stable one. Twice during the past term it had been defeated on government measures in committee and had only existed through the support of the Socialists. Twice it had adjourned under the Kittimat land scandal, once on the Government House commission, should not be submitted.

In some details, the speaker referred to the numerous revelations of the government with iniquitous action in various land deals, the Kafan Island matter was reviewed at some length. The Kittimat land scandal was dealt with. In connection with the latter the speaker referred to the famous deal which he had referred to in his memorandum, submitted to the Chief Commissioner and approved.

Victoria, especially, had no reason to be friendly to the McBride government. The time was urgent when it with the rest of the province should plainly show their opinion of that government's career.

Take, for instance, the government's action with regard to university question. They were willing to hand the educational affairs of the province bodily over to a private institution, which had established a brand name. All present knew what was behind the ac-

eration of climate, etc., pointed to Victoria as the natural location. Another interesting matter was then brought to light.

"When the B. C. Paint and Soap Company were almost about to move," he said, "it was necessary to get them to leave for a site. The board of trade recommended that the Dominion government should grant them a site on the Songhees reserve. The city council backed up the proposition and necessary representations were made to Ottawa with regard to the matter."

"The reply came that it would be necessary to obtain the consent of the province, as they possessed a revolutionary right in the reserve. I as one of the city's representatives had to call upon Premier McBride.

"Oh, he was all smiles, our first visit," he said. He promised to call a special meeting of the executive to deal with the matter. That meeting never took place. Several weeks later at a regular session it was again brought up. Mr. McBride asked the terms of the lease. I pointed out that the Dominion government for instant action and that delay in waiting for details from Ottawa would be prejudicial. I showed him the map we had left with him three days before and asked him to endorse the project by motion or by a letter to the Dominion government, stating that he was in favor of the project, subject to his perusal of the final draft.

"Nailed to the issue, he became irate," he said, "I want time to consider it. I won't give an answer now. Besides," he said, "I don't forget that the four city members voted against the Songhees Reserve Act."

"Mr. McBride's conduct in referring to the vote of the four city members on this question was on a par with his utterances on the fish trap question at the time of the election and election. He was in New Westminster he told the electors there that he would continue to oppose with all his power the introduction of fish traps, because he did not forget that the fishermen on the Fraser river first elected Tom Gifford to the legislature."

"Surely the people had a right to expect more statesmanlike conduct from a man occupying the position of premier."

"I don't know what the issue of the convention may be, but I want you to consider that whether I am on the ticket or not, I shall be happy to do and will do, all that I can to secure the election of your candidate."

Richard Hall was the last speaker. He was certain that a great majority of servants would vote face and vote Liberal at the approaching election.

"The country knows the reason for the failure of the Liberal party in the election of 1904. I don't think it is the increased taxation which is responsible, nor the throwing of responsibilities upon the municipalities, and the case of the school question. The source of British Columbia's prosperity is the wise direction of the Laurier government."

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DEATH ROLL MAY TOTAL FORTY-NINE

AS RESULT OF RAILWAY WRECK IN KANSAS

Boy Operator Who Is Blamed For Collision Will Testify at Coroner's Inquest.

Tongue, Kas., Jan. 3.—It is impossible to say exactly how many people perished in the Rock Island railway wreck at Alma, Kansas, yesterday, as a number of the victims were concealed by the wreckage of the smoking cars. The conductor says there were 76 Mexicans on the train and it is feared that 44 of these were killed, together with four other passengers, all men, and a negro train porter, besides the fatigued boy operator who is blamed for the collision, will testify.

So far as known all the women on the train escaped death and none were even slightly injured. W. P. Oswald of Mitchellville, Ia., was dragged from the ruins still alive but soon died. Rescuers found an arm of a passenger who was wedged in the wreck and who was burned.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN. Mikado's Representative Predicts Successful Conclusion of Treaty of Commerce.

Paris, Jan. 2.—Dr. Monro, the Japanese minister to Russia, in an interview published to-day was quoted as insisting that the alarming reports of the state of Russo-Japanese negotiations were unfounded, and that the treaty of commerce, which is being negotiated, would be successful.

He predicted a successful conclusion of the commercial treaty, and denied that Japan had made excessive demands, such as the opening of the whole of the Amur river to commerce. Japan, however, the minister pointed out, did insist on the opening of the Sungari river, which drains Manchuria, as a natural corollary of the treaty of commerce, and an establishing the principle of the open door. He considered the questions growing out of the interpretation of the treaty of commerce, and the case of the consulate and passport regulations as being of a minor character.

A new phase in the volume of inquiry is a very decided increase in the demand for timber lands.

Public interests seem of late to have veered round from acreage and building lots to house property. Indeed the volume of inquiry is just as great at present as during the week preceding Christmas. The agents say that there are many who are anxious to meet the demand, inasmuch as the listing of property continues to be as brisk as heretofore.

V. Madock & Co., a Winnipeg real estate firm, intend to open up a branch office in Victoria. Mr. Madock is at present in the city, and makes the firm's headquarters.

Reports are reaching Victoria daily relative to the large number of North-westerners who are expected to arrive in the city after the end of this week. The demand for furnished houses has been so great that it is very difficult to obtain one at the present time.

San Francisco, Jan. 2.—It is announced that the case of T. Ikeuchi, of Berkeley, publisher of "The Revolutionist," who was arrested at the Japanese consulate in Tokyo by the Japanese consul-general, will be referred to the court.

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Candidate Will Address Gathering in Spring Ridge—Executive Committee Selected To-Day.

(From Thursday's Daily.) The executive committee to forward the candidature of T. W. Paterson for the mayoralty chair was chosen to-day. Among its members are many well known business men and prominent citizens of Victoria. The following are the names of those forming the committee: R. P. Rithet, C. A. Holland, Richard Hall, Elliott S. Rowe, H. G. Wilson, W. A. Robertson, Fred Pauline, Ernest Temple, Geo. Morphy, C. Menzies, J. H. Dawson, J. W. Bolden, Rowland Machin and Simon Leiser.

MEXICO'S TRADE

Agent Advises Canadian Manufacturers to Cultivate the Market.

Ottawa, Jan. 2.—Canada's commercial agent in Mexico, W. Donley, reports to the department of trade and commerce that 1906 was Mexico's best year for exports and imports. There was an increase in the exports of \$21,000,000 and imports over \$21,000,000. The development of trade during the past 10 years has been something marvellous. About 85 per cent of the imports come from the United States and 80 per cent of the exports found a market in the United States. Germany is the only European country that seems to be making any headway in supplying the Mexican market. Britain has practically withdrawn from the field and in its place the Spaniards are now controlling the importing houses. Germany and France are willing to meet the views of the Mexican manufacturer, whereas the British manufacturer thinks he knows what is best for the Mexican market.

MUCH ACTIVITY IN REAL ESTATE MARKED PROSPERITY PROMISED THIS YEAR

Agents in the City Believe That There Will Be No Diminution in Demand.

(From Thursday's Daily.) The real estate market has not yet wholly recovered from the year and a half. At the same time many agents report a large volume of inquiry. Throughout the holiday season some of the firms have remained open through stress of work, and they report that the stream of callers was almost continuous.

During the past few days the Dominion Real Estate Exchange Company has put out through the sale of a residence on Port street. This passed to a local investor who gave for it, the sum of \$40,000.

This firm has also sold two lots of the Fernwood estate to a local man. The purchase money was \$500.

Several lots in the Talmie estate have passed to local investors through the hands of Swinerton & Oddy.

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MACDONALD OPENS THE CAMPAIGN

Liberal Leader Re-nominated at Rossland—Discussed the Issues and Fired Hot Shots at the Government.

Rossland, Jan. 3.—J. A. Macdonald fired the opening gun of the provincial campaign at a public meeting held last night. His deliverance followed his re-nomination as Liberal candidate for this riding. Mr. Macdonald leaves for Nelson to-day and will also visit the coast cities and various points throughout the interior. He received an enthusiastic reception.

The speaker appealed to organized labor and Liberals for support. He said he could have been tendered the nominations in Fernie and Cariboo and two or three other constituencies. However, it was his intention to "stand or fall" by the verdict of the electors of Rossland.

Mr. Macdonald devoted no little time to an indignant denial of the persistent reports that he was to be supplanted in the leadership by Mr. McInnes.

"The best answer I can give," he said, "Mr. McInnes resigned the governorship of the Yukon and is coming to participate in the campaign at my request, he declared with warmth.

"It is likely," he continued, after a pause, "that I should have asked him if I had suspected any rivalry or disloyalty on his part? I shall lead the party as long as it wants me, and I confidently expect to be next premier of British Columbia."

Then he proceeded to arraign the Canadian Pacific railway. The great issue of the campaign, he asserted, now was whether the people of British Columbia were to rule or the Canadian Pacific railway to be permitted to choose what it wants out of the public domain.

Other real estate men held a very similar opinion to that of Mr. Brown. They say that investors who have bought lots in and about the city refuse to sell these at advanced prices. They have apparently purchased with a view to residing here, and it is likely that many of these will erect residences in the near future.

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Chicago, Jan. 2.—The management of the Chicago and North-western railway has just completed a remarkable demonstration. During 1906 the company made a series of "surprise tests" in which the record shows that there were no accidents, and the rules governing block signalling. Surprise tests are made every day, and the management of the railway is very busy at the present time. There was a large attendance of prominent business men.

The C. P. R., he predicted, would be found "the ugliest and most unscrupulous support of the McBride government."

Mr. Macdonald regarded it as significant that the labor element in Vancouver had deserted not to run any candidates but to work in harmony with the Liberals.

He also criticized the government at length for its friendly attitude towards the C. P. R. with regard to taxation of the original land grant of 4,000,000 acres to the B. C. Southern railroad. It had been guilty of a gross breach of contract in not doing its duty, the revenue loss of the province in consequence during the past three years amounting to \$750,000, while in the same period the government had the temerity to increase the real and personal taxes 40 and 100 per cent respectively.

Mr. Macdonald took credit for trying to make the government collect taxes alleged to be due by the C. P. R. but his efforts he said had been frustrated by the government majority aided by the Socialists.

After criticizing the government's railway policy, Mr. Macdonald declared with the latter regulations of the government, holding that they were too lax in permitting speculators to acquire vast tracts. Then he referred to his efforts to amend the two per cent. tax by applying a tax to net profits and adding the cost of labor. Mr. Macdonald claimed to be the author of the government's "telephone pole policy," as his export is now permitted.

Mr. Macdonald promised if returned to power to create a labor and immigration bureau especially charged with looking after the interests of working people.

In conclusion after discussing "bet-ter terms" and upbraiding Premier McBride for making it a party issue, Mr. Macdonald promised to create a labor and immigration bureau especially charged with looking after the interests of working people.

SPENT NIGHT IN PLUMBERS PASS CHARMER HED UP AT MAYNE ISLAND WHARF

Delayed by Blinding Snow Storm—Steamer Did Not Arrive Until This Morning.

(From Thursday's Daily.) The steamer Charming on her way from Vancouver to Seattle was delayed in consequence of a heavy snow storm, which prevailed in the Gulf. The Charming did not reach port as a result until 11 o'clock this morning. Captain McLeod, who is in command of the Charming, explains that the trip across the Gulf to Plummer's Pass was made in a very heavy snow storm. When Plummer's Pass was reached about 1:30 Captain McLeod felt that it would not be wise to proceed farther. He accordingly tied up at the Mayne Island wharf. Fourteen inches of snow had fallen, but the weather improved somewhat, but Captain McLeod deferred proceeding until daylight. The passengers were thus allowed to spend the night comfortably.

At daylight the Charming set sail again for Victoria. James Island, off Sidney, afforded a convenient shelter for this morning to allow the passengers to get their breakfast, and the captain lay-to there while the morning meal was served.

The passengers thus reached port in good shape after a night spent on the Mayne Island wharf and a breakfast taken under normal conditions.

The delay gave rise last night to considerable anxiety among those who were expecting friends by her. During the night no communication could be established with the steamer, and it was not known where she was. Fears were allayed to a considerable extent by the fact that it has always been the rule of the Charming's captain to seek shelter under the shadow of some of the islands along the route whenever conditions become dangerous. The waiting room on Belleville street was crowded last night until a late hour by persons expecting friends and those intending to proceed to Vancouver. This morning the Charming was sighted off Sidney under shelter of James Island, and all fears were allayed.

The steamer Amur left this morning at 8 o'clock for Vancouver to take the Charming's place on the run to-day. The Amur will not reach the Terminal City until at least 2 o'clock this afternoon, and cannot be expected back at Victoria before a late hour to-night.

MAY GO NORTH. Whinlup, Jan. 2.—W. R. Tiffin, general superintendent of the Grand Trunk railway, will be in Winnipeg on Friday. He will make the trip through to the Pacific Coast, and it is expected from Vancouver he will make the journey northward to Prince Rupert.

A herring lies the shortest time of any and eats the greatest length of time.

HOW NEW YEAR WAS CELEBRATED

PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO HIS

Reception Held by the Lie Governor Was Largely Attended.

(From Wednesday's Daily.) New Year's day passed quietly in this city yesterday.

Services were held in St. Roman Catholic cathedral at 10:30 high mass was celebrated by Bishop Pontificating.

In the afternoon Lieutenant Dunston received at the House from 3 to 6 o'clock. The dance was large, over 500 people to pay their respects to His Honor Governor were served throughout the afternoon.

Amongst those who called were: R. Allen, Geo. T. Harvey, Geo. T. M. Baird, John Blain, W. D. B. Bullen, A. W. Volder, Macdonald, E. F. Hiscocks, E. W. Fraser, N. Finch, P. G. St. Andrew's Presbyterian, when the pastor preached.

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