

ESQUIMALT ALSO SOLID.

Only One Opinion There as to the Necessity of Cabinet Representation.

Hon. E. G. Prior Deals With Some Misrepresentations in Recent Opposition Speeches.

Hon. Dr. Helmcken Advises British Columbians to Think First of Their Own Interests.

Esquimalt was the meeting place at which Hon. E. G. Prior addressed the electors Saturday evening, and the gathering in Blue Ribbon hall proved that there is but one opinion in that part of the electoral district as to the desirability of heartily accepting the cabinet representation offered by Sir Mackenzie Bowell. There was absolutely no opposition to Hon. E. G. Prior there apparent, except on the part of the little knot of Liberals from town who, sizing up the situation, did not make any interruptions.

Mr. John Doran took the chair on motion of Mr. W. F. Bullen, and remarked amidst applause: "I seem to be the permanent chairman here." He called upon Hon. E. G. Prior as the first speaker.

Col. Prior coming forward amidst applause briefly explained the nature of the contest into which Mr. Templeman has entered against him. He noticed in Mr. Templeman's paper, the Times, the statement that he (Col. Prior) was afraid of discussion, and wished again to say that he was prepared to meet anyone on any platform, but both sides having arranged meetings for every available night it is obviously a physical impossibility for him to be at more than one place at one time. (Hear, hear.) He wished to deal with some of the statements recently made at the opposition meetings, first of all Senator McInnes' remark about the failure of the government to give to British Columbia the portfolio of agriculture which Mr. Angers had resigned. He explained that the vacancy was one which had, according to custom, to be filled from the province of Quebec; and he pointed out how childish it is for the Times to try to make a point now by saying that the portfolio has not after all been given to the province of Quebec, but rather to Dr. Montague of Ontario. He showed that what has been done in the case of Dr. Montague is simply a transfer of a cabinet minister from one department to another, and that the vacancy still remains to be filled from the province of Quebec.

Col. Prior next dealt with Senator McInnes' statement that as Dr. Bourinot did not give an answer to the Senator's question as to the holding of cabinet positions by controllers, it must have been because Dr. Bourinot could not uphold the government's course; and he showed that it would be very improper for Dr. Bourinot, as clerk of the house, to appear to favor one side or the other. As to the constitutional point, he would ask, who is likely to be correct, a few of the young lawyers here or the Premier of the country with his constitutional advisers at his elbow? (Applause.) He also pointed out that not one of the Eastern papers now disputes that he is a cabinet minister as well as a controller; and that neither of the two able lawyers who take such a prominent part in the affairs of the opposition here deny that he can constitutionally occupy the two positions. This is left to Senator McInnes, who no matter how well he may be in physics is not an authority on constitutional law to be quoted against the Minister of Justice. (Laughter.) With respect to the Senator's charge against him that he had supported the government on every occasion, he quite freely admitted that he had done so, and that he would do so long as his constituents elect him as a government supporter. (Applause.) He was not, and would not be a turncoat, like the Senator, who followed the opposition government in every respect until they would not compel the Canadian Pacific Railway to make their terminus at Port Moody, where the Senator held a large tract of land; and then only then Senator McInnes "rattled"; but Col. Prior could assure his friends in Victoria that he would never be found following such an example. He told how he had written at length to Premier Bowell, explaining the contention of the opposition here that he would have an equal seat in the cabinet, and declaring to him that he would take nothing less than an equal voice with every other minister. This would be his position, and if it had happened that he could not be a controller and a cabinet minister at the same time he would willingly throw away the controllership and the salary, to represent British Columbia in the cabinet without pay, which he could afford to do for a little while at least. (Applause.) He dealt with the Senator's slanderous statements about the militia of Canada, amongst other things that 75 per cent. of them "don't know how to load a rifle," and he felt sure that every right-thinking man will resent this attempt to hold the young men of the militia up to the scorn of the public. He would refer for a short time to the school question.

At this point Mr. Archer Martin, who cupied a front seat, interjected "hear, hear," in a tone which caused Col. Prior to remark that while he saw before him some young lawyers of the opposition who had no doubt come to gain experience, he hoped they would not try to interrupt the proceedings of the meeting by making a noise, for he felt sure that they could not succeed. Mr. Martin thereupon rose to a point of order to complain that the Senator had referred to him in "very uncomplimentary terms." Col. Prior laughingly told him that if he would not interrupt he would not be referred to any more, and the Chairman asked Mr. Martin to sit down.

McSHANE AS AN ALLY.

Col. Prior then proceeded with his address, pointing out the progressive nature of the policy of the present government, and the high credit of Canada abroad as proof that the men who have money to lend to themations have confidence in the integrity of the government of Canada and the ability of the Dominion to take proper care of all its obligations—which would not be the case if the government were not in proper hands. He noticed that the opposition have a good deal to say about boodle, and therefore wished to point out how strangely this sounds coming from a party whose most prominent members include Mr. Picaud, Mr. Tarte and Mr. Jimmy McShane, and with respect to the last named, who has just been received into their parliamentary ranks with such demonstrations of joy by the Liberals of Victoria, he read the following choice bits of history: "The nomination of the Hon. James McShane in Montreal Centre by the Liberal party is another of the startling illustrations which the Liberals sometimes unfortunately furnish of the contrast between good principles and bad practice. Mr. McShane's record is one of the worst in the political annals of the Dominion. He commenced twenty years ago, and has kept it up right along, on the 10th February, 1876, the Speaker of the House of Commons presented the report of Mr. Justice Tarnan in the Montreal West election case, in which after unmasking Mr. Frederick Mackenzie, the court reported: 'That the following persons were proved at the trial to have been guilty of the corrupt practice of bribery: James McShane, junior, and by James McShane, junior, illegally paying money to promote respondent's election.' "The Court of Review, composed of Justices Jette, Gill and Loranger, in reporting to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly the annulment of the provincial election in Laprairie, on December 8, 1877, because of what Mr. McShane and his associates had done, went on to state: 'because of the gross and general corruption clearly published against the persons named, it had resolved to disqualify Mr. McShane. He escaped this penalty which the law reserves for those guilty of the worst election bribery by a technicality based on the procedure followed by the court. "Another chapter of his peculiar record deals with his conduct as a minister of Quebec. It is set out in the reports of the Royal Commission of 1892. Before that body Mr. J. P. Whelan gave the following testimony as to his payments, when in power, to and for members of that government: "Now, we will come to the 9th item. 'To the Honorable James McShane, \$7,100.' When was this sum paid, and in what amounts? 'I gave him the sum of \$7,100, 1887, for the Laprairie election, \$2,500. "How was it paid?' 'In cash to himself. "Did he ask it from you?' 'Yes; as an election subscription. "Was he a minister of the crown at the time? 'Yes, he was commissioner of public works. "Now, what was the next sum paid?' 'The next sum was \$500, on the 11th March, 1887. "What was the next sum?' 'It was on the 15th of October, 1887, \$1,000; I unfortunately went into the government offices one afternoon and met him there and he showed me a despatch. 'Say to me, what I want, I want \$2,000. Can you get it for me?' 'I tried to get \$2,000 for you, but you would not let me. 'You must give it to me.' 'He said, 'I will give you \$2,000, but you must be minister of public works and I was a contractor. 'Well, I answered, 'I am sorry I came in. 'That is where we differ,' he said, 'I am glad to get a minister, it is too late; it is safer banking hours. 'Oh, that's all right,' he replied, 'I will get the money.' So he telephoned James Baxter to come up, and he said, 'I want \$3,000.' You see he raised it one better in the meantime. Baxter said, 'I will get it for you to-morrow.' Baxter went to the Bank of Montreal and got sixty \$50 bills out of the bank, so I presume he handed it to McShane. (It is really handed to Mr. Mercer.) Did he say what he wanted the money for? 'On account of the Ottawa election.' The above are only some of the extracts which Col. Prior read from a long compiled by the Ottawa Journal, an independent newspaper. In the light of this same evidence he thought it well to fairly report in the passage where he said that in Manitoba they had separate schools by law from 1870 to 1890. That is a fact, is it not? he asked.

"Hear, hear," answered Mr. Martin. Col. Prior continued that the Dominion government, in his opinion, are simply repeating the duty of the matter of the Manitoba school question; and he again pointed out that there is no foundation for the contention that the Dominion may next be found forcing separate schools on this province. British Columbia, he showed, is under an entire different law to that of Manitoba, and under our law the Dominion government can never interfere here. He held that it is rather late in the day for the opposition to say as they do that the law of Manitoba was not intended to be applied to this day, and that it is now to-day. The law must be taken as it is—however it came to be that way. This law gives the Manitoba minority the right to appeal to the government of the Dominion for redress of the grievance which the judicial committee of the privy council have decided to exist; for the government to refuse to listen to the appeal or to right the wrong shown to exist. (Hear, hear.) He had not said, as declared by the Times, that the Dominion government are bound by law to interfere; he did, however, contend—and left it to any sensible man to say if he is not right—that as men of honor it is their duty to do so for the protection of the rights of the minority in this province. He had appealed to the law, and he had appealed to the honor of the Dominion government, and he belongs to, if the law is on his side the government should carry it out, whether the minority who have a complaint be the Roman Catholics of Manitoba, or at some future date the Protestants of the province. The government at any events feel that it is their duty to be prepared to take the responsibility of performing that duty. He felt sure that the electors of Victoria will take his word for it that he has honestly come to the conclusion he has expressed. (Applause.)

He asked the electors, if they believe in their rights in their contentions of the important matters to which he had to-night referred, that on the 8th of January each of them will come forward and put a ballot in the box for E. G. Prior. (Applause.)

At this time he asked permission to put "about three-wit questions," and Col. Prior asking to hear them Mr. Martin proceeded: "Is not the Bowell government pledged to enforce the remedial order

contributed by British Columbia this should come back and be spent in this province, as if we are to pay nothing towards the general expenses of the administration of the Dominion? In addition to the large permanent expenditures which the government make there are many special works being carried on. For instance, there is the new post office at Victoria, which is to be of far superior class to any given at any other place of twice the size in Canada. Then Sir Mackenzie Bowell has promised aid to the extension of the E. & N. railway at the earliest possible moment. (Applause.)

THE TRADE QUESTION.

Disastrous Effect of Tariff Tinkering Plainly Illustrated in the United States.

Taking up the trade question, Col. Prior pointed out that free trade would be all very well for the few with fixed incomes and permanent positions, but he would ask how would our own people find employment in industries—in boiler making, for instance, as carried on in this city—if it were not for protection, and what advantage would it be to the mechanic to be able to buy certain articles cheap if he had no employment to provide him with the money for purchase. (Hear, hear.) He referred to the business upheaval in the United States which lowered the price of the temporary change of policy in the direction of a lowering of the tariff, and read this sample article on that subject: "In the election of November, 1892, the Free Traders won, and in a few months the country was flooded with goods from the whole country. The manufacturers filled their standing orders as through this kept business somewhat brisk for a time. With pleasure it is to be noted that wages were reduced, employees dismissed and factories closed. Over seven hundred banks suspended and dire distress was felt everywhere. In less than a year from the free trade victory at the polls, President Cleveland's message to congress contained the following significant and withal pitiable crops: 'The abundant promise of remunerative production and manufacture, with unusual invitation to safe investment, and with satisfactory assurance to business enterprise, suddenly financial distrust and fear have sprung up on every side. Values supposed to be fixed are fast becoming convulsed, and with pitiless rapidity every branch of business. "In two years the decrease of the output of the mines was 50 per cent., the falling off of the number of hands employed in the mines, and the decrease in the amount of wages earned was 45 per cent. "The experiences of two years fear of free trade, however, brought the American people to their senses, and in the November elections of 1894, the free trade party was defeated. The free trade party was frequently said during the campaign, 'the people had learned through their stomachs that they wouldn't through their noses be fed by the Africans living in the tropics while neglecting their own interests. (Laughter.) He asked all those who thought as he does—that we should advocate the interests of British Columbia first, last and all the time—to vote for Mr. Prior. He pointed out that in a few months the general elections will be on and we will know all about this remedial legislation; it will be time enough then to argue about it. He would add that those who would neglect the interests of the people of British Columbia are not the men who ought to represent this Province. We want no importations from other places to stir up animosities. He did not wish to see the peaceful relations which had always existed here disturbed by the hot-headed young men who for party purposes would stir up such strife should be frowned down. (Applause.) He would like to ask again, what have we to do with the Manitoba school question, and especially in the future for the rights and privileges which they have extended to the past. (Applause.) He did not believe in stating any single word which did not honestly and entirely come from his heart and conscience; he regretted that the Manitoba school question has been dragged into this controversy, but speaking as an ordinary ratepayer and voter he could say that in this contest we should consider only one point—do we or do we not want cabinet representation? (Hear, hear.) If we do, it is our duty to vote, and vote solidly for a man who can be depended upon to handle a portfolio as well as any other man in Canada. (Applause.) As far as the interests of this constituency and this province are concerned he would advise them to vote for Mr. Prior. He had stated this evening, in the most honest and candid manner, and he would conclude now by asking a hearty support for his friend, Hon. E. G. Prior. (Applause.)

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRST.

That is Hon. Dr. Helmcken's Advice—He Deprecates the Introduction of Sectionarian Strife.

Hon. Dr. Helmcken being enthusiastically called for by the next address, he rose with the remark that he would prefer to hear some of the gentlemen from Esquimalt. As a voter, interested in the development of British Columbia, striving for British Columbia first and last, he objected to seeing British Columbia interests sacrificed to Manitoba. (Hear, hear.) If Manitoba has a quarrel let her fight it out with the government herself. What, he asked, does Manitoba care for British Columbia, except to send her products to our markets? If the people of Manitoba had been conciliatory to each other this question would never have come up. It is all very well for grandiloquent and grandiose men to come forward with their remedies, but they are like those who preach in favor of sending fannel petticoats to the Africans living in the tropics while neglecting their own interests. (Laughter.) He asked all those who thought as he does—that we should advocate the interests of British Columbia first, last and all the time—to vote for Mr. Prior. He pointed out that in a few months the general elections will be on and we will know all about this remedial legislation; it will be time enough then to argue about it. He would add that those who would neglect the interests of the people of British Columbia are not the men who ought to represent this Province. We want no importations from other places to stir up animosities. He did not wish to see the peaceful relations which had always existed here disturbed by the hot-headed young men who for party purposes would stir up such strife should be frowned down. (Applause.) He would like to ask again, what have we to do with the Manitoba school question, and especially in the future for the rights and privileges which they have extended to the past. (Applause.) He did not believe in stating any single word which did not honestly and entirely come from his heart and conscience; he regretted that the Manitoba school question has been dragged into this controversy, but speaking as an ordinary ratepayer and voter he could say that in this contest we should consider only one point—do we or do we not want cabinet representation? (Hear, hear.) If we do, it is our duty to vote, and vote solidly for a man who can be depended upon to handle a portfolio as well as any other man in Canada. (Applause.) As far as the interests of this constituency and this province are concerned he would advise them to vote for Mr. Prior. He had stated this evening, in the most honest and candid manner, and he would conclude now by asking a hearty support for his friend, Hon. E. G. Prior. (Applause.)

IT WOULD BE SUICIDAL.

To Divide Now Upon a Matter of Creed to the Loss of the Long Sought Influence at Ottawa.

Mr. E. Crow Baker being next called to the front expressed great pleasure in again addressing his old constituents in Esquimalt, and in telling them that he is heartily in support of his old friend and colleague, Hon. E. G. Prior, in the contest with Mr. Templeman. He had gone to Ottawa year after year, not as a politician but as a faithful representative, and he felt that his successors, Messrs. Earle and Prior, have also served their constituents faithfully. He felt that the people would be absolutely daft not to grasp what they have been asking for—cabinet representation in the cabinet. He felt it would be a very remarkable thing if any considerable number of the people allowed their attention to be diverted by a side issue—as he must term the Manitoba school question. To divide upon a matter of creed now would simply be suicidal, when the people have the opportunity to establish their rights in the much more important matter of cabinet representation.

Mr. Baker pointed out that taking them categorically it will be seen that all the friends of the rights and privileges of British Columbia and the Dominion have been carrying to effect—not by the Liberals, who were in office from 1874 to 1878, but by the Conservative party who have since continuously been in power. He felt that it is that party to whom we must look in the future for the rights and privileges which they have extended to the past. (Applause.) He did not believe in stating any single word which did not honestly and entirely come from his heart and conscience; he regretted that the Manitoba school question has been dragged into this controversy, but speaking as an ordinary ratepayer and voter he could say that in this contest we should consider only one point—do we or do we not want cabinet representation? (Hear, hear.) If we do, it is our duty to vote, and vote solidly for a man who can be depended upon to handle a portfolio as well as any other man in Canada. (Applause.) As far as the interests of this constituency and this province are concerned he would advise them to vote for Mr. Prior. He had stated this evening, in the most honest and candid manner, and he would conclude now by asking a hearty support for his friend, Hon. E. G. Prior. (Applause.)

ABOUT PROVINCIAL RIGHTS.

The Liberals Were Not Concerned With Them When British Columbia Suffered Through Their Neglect.

Mr. A. E. McPhillips, who had been seated at the back of the hall, was called to the front in response called forward. He appeared to be a Canadian by birth who had the best interests of the country at heart, and to speak as he feels according to his sense of justice. He agreed entirely with what Hon. Dr. Helmcken has just said that this question printed from Manitoba is not one which should be allowed to divide this province. He felt that it is a great pity that the Liberals when in office did not care so much for provincial rights as they profess to care now, for had they done so they would have carried out the terms of union with British Columbia which they so shamefully ignored during their five years in office. The Manitoba act under which the Dominion government now propose to give relief to the minority in that province is a part of the bargain with the Dominion, which in honor has to be respected and carried out just as the terms of union with British Columbia should have been. (Applause.) Though a Catholic in religion, he had lived and associated with Protestants long enough not to have any prejudices on religious questions; he had been educated in a Presbyterian institution and Protestants are amongst his best friends and clients. He could speak therefore without any feeling of prejudice, and as one who has given attention to religious questions, he introduced the act of 1890, when he was a resident of Winnipeg.

MR. EARLE'S CONTRAST.

Between the Liberal Leader's Timid Vacillation and the Government's Firm Attitude on Every Great Issue.

Mr. Thomas Earle, M.P., was also called for, but the hour being late he said he would simply endorse the position taken and the views expressed by Hon. E. G. Prior. He felt satisfied that the government of the Dominion government propose to adopt one, and that the question is the correct one, and that they were to refuse to deal with it they would be shirking a responsibility which is properly theirs. (Applause.) He also endorsed the trade policy of the government, which is thoroughly understood by the people of the Dominion, who have time and again pronounced favorably upon it. He felt that it will again receive throughout the country an overwhelming support. He had not noticed that since he has been in the house the government have from the first taken a positive position on every great question, while the policy of the

opposition has been a vacillating one. They have changed their position so many times that the Liberals now almost disclaim ever having advocated what was their policy when he last appeared before the electors of Esquimalt. (Hear, hear.) The same with the school question; the government have taken hold of it bravely and firmly, and he was firmly in accord with Col. Prior in standing by them in preference to Mr. Laurier, who has not the courage to say definitely what his position is or what course he is prepared to take. Mr. Martin—"Yes, well, you keep it." (Great laughter.) He would not take up time further except to again express his pleasure at the very cordial and hearty reception given to Col. Prior to-night. He wished to say, too, that like his old friend Hon. Dr. Helmcken he would not have believed that there could arise such an attempt at opposition to cabinet representation in British Columbia. The Liberals have for the past two years claimed that the province should have cabinet representation, and he would only be granted through one of our representatives; and there could not have been made a better choice than that of Col. Prior, whose manly, straightforward utterances many commend him to all who hear his addresses. Mr. Earle in conclusion hoped to meet the electors of Esquimalt in a few months to ask for their votes for himself as well as for his colleague Hon. E. G. Prior. (Applause.)

NO "COERCION" AB-UT IT.

Except on the Part of Mr. Greenway's Government Who Seek to Tire Out the Little Minority.

Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken said that ever since this campaign commenced he had most strongly advocated the acceptance of the offer which has been made to British Columbia by the Dominion government. As a loyal citizen, taught from his boyhood to obey his Queen and country, he endeavored to conduct himself accordingly, and he had been one with those who advocated the claims of this province to recognition at the capital of the Dominion. He therefore heartily approved the action which has been carried out upon Col. Prior, which from the first he thought we should unanimously accept. (Applause.) As to the school question he regretted that it should be made a political one. As a lawyer, who had studied all that came in his way respecting the issue, and without wishing to take away from Mr. Bodwell any of the praise to which he is entitled for his splendid speech of the other night, he felt that that gentleman has quite missed the point, and that the judgment of the judicial committee of the privy council has removed the difficulty which Mr. Bodwell sees in the way of the government. He noticed that Mr. Bodwell had drawn his inspiration from Wade's pamphlet on the subject.

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Col. Prior—"Do you know what the remedial order is?"

Mr. Martin—"Yes, I have it here."

Col. Prior—"My answer is that the bill is not introduced yet."

The next question was as to the undisputed fact that Clarke Wallace resigned because he did not favor the government's attitude on this question. The third Mr. Martin asked was, "If you go to Ottawa as Member of Parliament for Victoria, will you support the Bowell government in enforcing the remedial order, against the wishes of Manitoba?"

Col. Prior—"The government have yet to bring down their bill. That bill will state what it is that they propose to do; and until that time neither you nor I know what it may contain. It may demand separate schools under proper provincial supervision; it may only demand an hour's instruction in religious subjects at the end of the regular school hours. Nobody knows exactly what the government may propose to parliament."

Mr. Martin declared himself not satisfied with this answer.

Col. Prior continued: "Whatever measure the Bowell government think fit to bring down, I am going to support."

Mr. Martin was proceeding with another question, when there were loud cries of "Sit down! Sit down!" Col. Prior, however, asked that he be allowed to put it to Mr. Martin. "Should Manitoba refuse to comply with the remedial order with any act of parliament carrying it into effect, how do you propose to enforce compliance?"

Col. Prior—"I have no idea." (Great applause.)

BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRST.

That is Hon. Dr. Helmcken's Advice—He Deprecates the Introduction of Sectionarian Strife.

Hon. Dr. Helmcken being enthusiastically called for by the next address, he rose with the remark that he would prefer to hear some of the gentlemen from Esquimalt. As a voter, interested in the development of British Columbia, striving for British Columbia first and last, he objected to seeing British Columbia interests sacrificed to Manitoba. (Hear, hear.) If Manitoba has a quarrel let her fight it out with the government herself. What, he asked, does Manitoba care for British Columbia, except to send her products to our markets? If the people of Manitoba had been conciliatory to each other this question would never have come up. It is all very well for grandiloquent and grandiose men to come forward with their remedies, but they are like those who preach in favor of sending fannel petticoats to the Africans living in the tropics while neglecting their own interests. (Laughter.) He asked all those who thought as he does—that we should advocate the interests of British Columbia first, last and all the time—to vote for Mr. Prior. He pointed out that in a few months the general elections will be on and we will know all about this remedial legislation; it will be time enough then to argue about it. He would add that those who would neglect the interests of the people of British Columbia are not the men who ought to represent this Province. We want no importations from other places to stir up animosities. He did not wish to see the peaceful relations which had always existed here disturbed by the hot-headed young men who for party purposes would stir up such strife should be frowned down. (Applause.) He would like to ask again, what have we to do with the Manitoba school question, and especially in the future for the rights and privileges which they have extended to the past. (Applause.) He did not believe in stating any single word which did not honestly and entirely come from his heart and conscience; he regretted that the Manitoba school question has been dragged into this controversy, but speaking as an ordinary ratepayer and voter he could say that in this contest we should consider only one point—do we or do we not want cabinet representation? (Hear, hear.) If we do, it is our duty to vote, and vote solidly for a man who can be depended upon to handle a portfolio as well as any other man in Canada. (Applause.) As far as the interests of this constituency and this province are concerned he would advise them to vote for Mr. Prior. He had stated this evening, in the most honest and candid manner, and he would conclude now by asking a hearty support for his friend, Hon. E. G. Prior. (Applause.)

IT WOULD BE SUICIDAL.

To Divide Now Upon a Matter of Creed to the Loss of the Long Sought Influence at Ottawa.

Mr. E. Crow Baker being next called to the front expressed great pleasure in again addressing his old constituents in Esquimalt, and in telling them that he is heartily in support of his old friend and colleague, Hon. E. G. Prior, in the contest with Mr. Templeman. He had gone to Ottawa year after year, not as a politician but as a faithful representative, and he felt that his successors, Messrs. Earle and Prior, have also served their constituents faithfully. He felt that the people would be absolutely daft not to grasp what they have been asking for—cabinet representation in the cabinet. He felt it would be a very remarkable thing if any considerable number of the people allowed their attention to be diverted by a side issue—as he must term the Manitoba school question. To divide upon a matter of creed now would simply be suicidal, when the people have the opportunity to establish their rights in the much more important matter of cabinet representation.

ABOUT PROVINCIAL RIGHTS.

The Liberals Were Not Concerned With Them When British Columbia Suffered Through Their Neglect.

Mr. A. E. McPhillips, who had been seated at the back of the hall, was called to the front in response called forward. He appeared to be a Canadian by birth who had the best interests of the country at heart, and to speak as he feels according to his sense of justice. He agreed entirely with what Hon. Dr. Helmcken has just said that this question printed from Manitoba is not one which should be allowed to divide this province. He felt that it is a great pity that the Liberals when in office did not care so much for provincial rights as they profess to care now, for had they done so they would have carried out the terms of union with British Columbia which they so shamefully ignored during their five years in office. The Manitoba act under which the Dominion government now propose to give relief to the minority in that province is a part of the bargain with the Dominion, which in honor has to be respected and carried out just as the terms of union with British Columbia should have been. (Applause.) Though a Catholic in religion, he had lived and associated with Protestants long enough not to have any prejudices on religious questions; he had been educated in a Presbyterian institution and Protestants are amongst his best friends and clients. He could speak therefore without any feeling of prejudice, and as one who has given attention to religious questions, he introduced the act of 1890, when he was a resident of Winnipeg.

MR. EARLE'S CONTRAST.

Between the Liberal Leader's Timid Vacillation and the Government's Firm Attitude on Every Great Issue.

Mr. Thomas Earle, M.P., was also called for, but the hour being late he said he would simply endorse the position taken and the views expressed by Hon. E. G. Prior. He felt satisfied that the government of the Dominion government propose to adopt one, and that the question is the correct one, and that they were to refuse to deal with it they would be shirking a responsibility which is properly theirs. (Applause.) He also endorsed the trade policy of the government, which is thoroughly understood by the people of the Dominion, who have time and again pronounced favorably upon it. He felt that it will again receive throughout the country an overwhelming support. He had not noticed that since he has been in the house the government have from the first taken a positive position on every great question, while the policy of the

opposition has been a vacillating one. They have changed their position so many times that the Liberals now almost disclaim ever having advocated what was their policy when he last appeared before the electors of Esquimalt. (Hear, hear.) The same with the school question; the government have taken hold of it bravely and firmly, and he was firmly in accord with Col. Prior in standing by them in preference to Mr. Laurier, who has not the courage to say definitely what his position is or what course he is prepared to take. Mr. Martin—"Yes, well, you keep it." (Great laughter.) He would not take up time further except to again express his pleasure at the very cordial and hearty reception given to Col. Prior to-night. He wished to say, too, that like his old friend Hon. Dr. Helmcken he would not have believed that there could arise such an attempt at opposition to cabinet representation in British Columbia. The Liberals have for the past two years claimed that the province should have cabinet representation, and he would only be granted through one of our representatives; and there could not have been made a better choice than that of Col. Prior, whose manly, straightforward utterances many commend him to all who hear his addresses. Mr. Earle in conclusion hoped to meet the electors of Esquimalt in a few months to ask for their votes for himself as well as for his colleague Hon. E. G. Prior. (Applause.)

NO "COERCION" AB-UT IT.

Except on the Part of Mr. Greenway's Government Who Seek to Tire Out the Little Minority.

Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken said that ever since this campaign commenced he had most strongly advocated the acceptance of the offer which has been made to British Columbia by the Dominion government. As a loyal citizen, taught from his boyhood to obey his Queen and country, he endeavored to conduct himself accordingly, and he had been one with those who advocated the claims of this province to recognition at the capital of the Dominion. He therefore heartily approved the action which has been carried out upon Col. Prior, which from the first he thought we should unanimously accept. (Applause.) As to the school question he regretted that it should be made a political one. As a lawyer,